

Forcible speakers succeeded by loudmouths

When he was a Home Office minister, Sir Peter Lloyd (C. Fareham) never seemed able to shout. British politics badly needs the return of such men.

Watching Commons Questions over the past eight years, I can report that the quality of the exchanges has recently taken a downturn. The standard was never high, but threaded into the weave of histrionics, special pleading, sloganising and name-calling was a consistent – if sometimes unseen – thread.

You could call it integrity, you could call it style, you could call it thoughtfulness or

you could call it class; but, whatever its name, you could recognise it.

You could recognise it when Roy Hattersley was on the Front Bench, his party's spokesman on Home Affairs. As a partisan – as cheap, sometimes – as the next MP, you knew his interventions were anchored to personal belief. There was philosophical ballast beneath the wind. You knew it was there as long as William Whitelaw was Home Secretary. He never said anything interesting but you felt sure he would block anything that was wrong. On the Centre-Left,

from Douglas Hurd or Chris Patten, you could rely on a sort of fastidiousness, as iron-willed as it was elegantly understated. You knew there were things they would not say and would not do. You could sense it, ill-concealed, behind Gerald Kaufman's superficially insulating style. Few on the Labour front bench could so infuriate the Tories, but his talent to abuse ranged within

margins. The phraseology was immoderate, the ideology careful and humane.

On the Centre-Right you could find reassurance in Home Secretary David Waddington's blend of populist rhetoric and cautious practicality. The late Keith Joseph, you knew, would listen. You could count on Nicholas Ridley's fine contempt for the cheers of the mob. When, too seldom, Labour's Robin Cook

is on his feet, you can still sense it: the rhetoric leaps and dives like a kite, but the string of the kite is securely held.

The political qualities of which I speak are not so much a question of Right or Left, but more a question of seriousness: seriousness about something beyond winning. Opportunism has its place in the Commons, but if anchored to nothing, but advantage it drifts into a kind of capriciousness.

The sense of caprice, as I watched the Government and Opposition front benches during Home Affairs Questions yesterday, was unsettling.

There was a creepy feeling of anchorless drift in an angry sea.

Everybody was shouting. A junior minister responsible for the police, David Maclean, seems to have been shouting ever since he got the job. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, was shouting. His opposite number, Jack Straw, was shouting.

They were shouting about knives, guns, police powers, judges, prisons... everything, but mostly they were shouting about electoral advantage.

How soon have former ministers like Sir Peter come to seem out of time, survivors

from a distant era. Home Affairs gave way to Prime Minister's Questions, taken in John Major's absence by Michael Heseltine, and for Labour by John Prescott. They shouted too – Hezza was in roaring form – but survivors themselves from another age, they did not mean it. We could enjoy the Punch and Judy, confident that the hands within the gloves were attached to growths.

All too often now there is no hand, no grown-up. Indeed, no glove. Punch and Judy have taken on a life of their own, and strut and fret on both front benches.

No change on windfall tax, Brown claims

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

GORDON BROWN insisted last night that all privatised utilities would face a windfall tax from a Labour government, after the chairman of PowerGen had said his company could be excluded.

Government ministers and industrialists yesterday accused Labour of watering down its plans to raise at least £3 billion by taxing the profits of utility companies, and there were accusations of confusion, after the Shadow Chancellor appeared to contradict suggestions by an aide to Tony Blair that only privatised utilities with a monopoly would have to pay additional taxes on "excessive profits". Ed Wallis, chairman of PowerGen, claimed that the company would be excluded.

A spokesman for Mr Brown said last night: "In principle, all privatised utilities will be considered for inclusion with in the remit of the levy. We would not want to discriminate unfairly." His comment followed a letter from Alastair Campbell, Mr Blair's press secretary, saying that the windfall tax would apply to the "excess profits of the privatised monopoly utilities". City analysts insisted that very few of the privatised utilities could be described as monopolies, with companies including BT and British Gas now facing competition.

PM attacks French economy on eve of Chirac summit

FROM JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT, IN BORDEAUX

JOHN MAJOR last night delivered a surprising broadside against the state of the French economy as he flew into France for a meeting with President Chirac to spell out Britain's demands for the future of the European Union.

The Prime Minister will tell M Chirac in Bordeaux today that he is prepared to scupper next month's European summit in Dublin if other countries fail to agree to a change in the Maastricht treaty rules to ensure that Britain can opt out of the directive.

Mr Major will also resist



Paris criticism, page 14
Bernard Connolly, page 20
Leading article, page 21

the number of days lost to strikes fall to the lowest ever. In France many of their public services have been paralysed by the walkouts.

At today's meeting Mr Major will argue that Britain has no intention of accepting a 48-hour week if the European Court of Justice rules against Britain next week over an EU working-time directive. He will serve warning that Britain will demand a change in the Maastricht treaty rules to ensure that Britain can opt out of the directive.

Mr Major will also resist

moves by France and Germany to weaken the national veto. Paris and Bonn are pressing for a more flexible approach, to allow an inner core of countries to proceed more quickly with political integration. The two countries are now asking for a clause to be inserted into the treaty which would allow sub-groups of member states to move ahead without waiting for a unanimous agreement.

Mr Major is expected to ask for M Chirac's support in his efforts to prevent "quota-hopping" by foreign fishermen. British ministers claim that 20 per cent of the UK fishing quota is now taken up by quota-hoppers – mainly Spanish and Dutch – who buy British licences. Mr Major has given warning that until this is stopped, he will not agree to further cuts in the size of the British fishing fleet.

The summit, which will also be attended by other Cabinet ministers, will also focus on the crisis in Zaire. Closer cooperation against drugs and terrorism will be discussed, and also the Middle East and Bosnia.

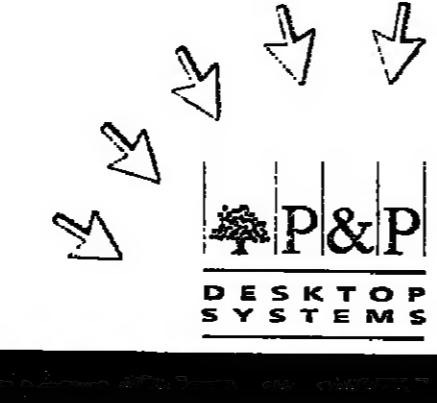
Hours before an informal dinner with the French leader, Mr Major boasted that the average family in Britain would be better off this year than at the time of the last election, while pointing to high unemployment and industrial unrest in France. "That's why the pulse of Britain is growing stronger. Compare that with what is happening in the rest of Europe," he said in an interview in the London Evening Standard. "Youth unemployment in Britain is 15 per cent but in France it is well over 26 per cent. In Britain we have



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Prisoners in mix-up freed and rearrested

Sixteen high-security prisoners were released from jail and promptly rearrested yesterday because of an administrative error that is causing severe embarrassment to the Irish Government.

Charges against the 16, who include Nessa Quinlan, the Briton escapee, were invalid. The judge who charged the men had asked to be taken off the list of Special Criminal Court judges. This was done in August, but he was not told and continued hearing cases.

Cure for earache

Five-year-old children who chewed gum containing xylitol, a natural sugar, five times a day had 40 per cent fewer attacks of acute ear infections over a two-month period than children who chewed a gum with sucrose. The study was conducted among 300 Finnish children.

Adams injured

Gerry Adams, 48, the Sinn Fein president, has cancelled public engagements for the next few days after being badly bruised in a car accident in the Irish Republic. He and his driver were treated in hospital. The car, in collision with another vehicle, was a write-off.

Repeat escapes

Three of the six dangerous prisoners who escaped from a coach in north London while being transferred between jails had escaped custody before it was disclosed yesterday. One, Lee Mity, was on the run for two years after absconding from Little Hey jail near Cambridge.

£14,000 payout

Frances Ricketts, 25, won £14,000 in an out-of-court settlement for her unfair dismissal and sexual harassment claims. The industrial tribunal in Croydon, south London, against OCO Heating and Mechanical Engineering of Lewisham, started last March.

Raiders sought

Police are creating a national database of information in an attempt to catch armed burglars who have raided homes of the rich or famous, netting millions of pounds. In the latest attacks, on homes in north London and Dorset, they seized jewellery worth up to £500,000.

Knife ruling

No action will be taken to curb the sale of knives by mail order, the Government announced last night. The Home Office Minister Ann Widdecombe said in a Commons written reply that the control of mail order sales was not considered appropriate.

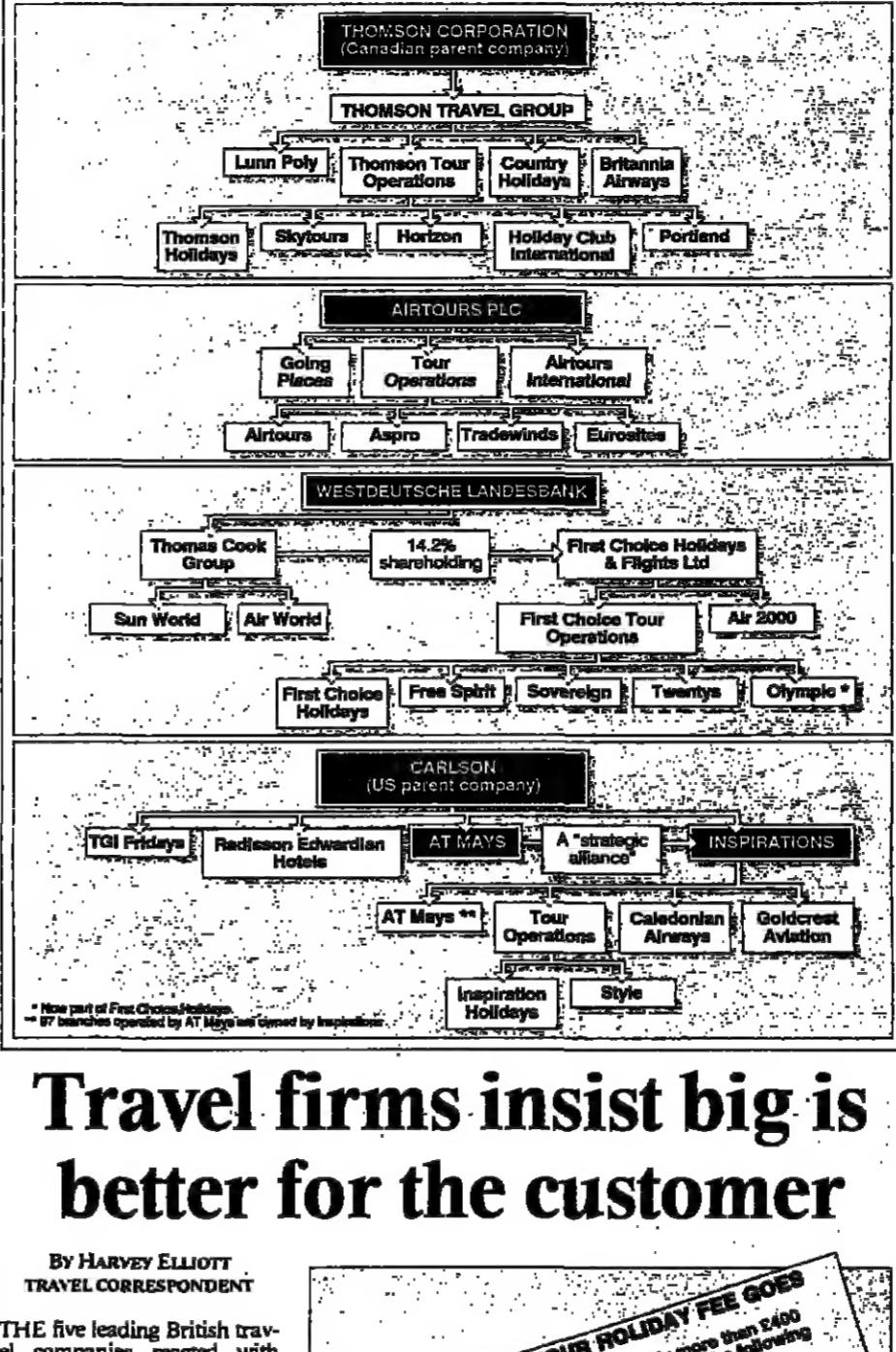
£2m goes begging

An unclaimed National Lottery prize of more than £2 million will go into the "good causes" kitty if the winner does not identify himself within the next two weeks. The ticket was bought in Hull for the May 25 draw. The winner must claim the prize by 1pm on November 21.

Village ambition

The residents of Milton Abbas, Dorset, hope to raise £250,000 to buy the lake that flooded the original site of their village in 1773. The village was rebuilt after the landowner, Lord Milton, extended his estate to create the lake, which is now up for sale.

TRAVEL COMPANIES: WHO OWNS WHO



Travel firms insist big is better for the customer

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

THE five leading British travel companies reacted with disbelief yesterday that the Office of Fair Trading had decided to recommend the referral of the industry to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Last week, at the Association of British Travel Agents' conference in Istanbul, they had listened to detailed figures showing that not only were holidaymakers switching to small tour operators and travel agents, but that the alleged problems of vertical integration caused little or no concern to the public.

In the past year the number of holidays sold by the top five tour operators – Thomson, Airtours, First Choice, Sunworld and Inspirations – fell by 5 per cent from 66 per cent of the total market of about 8.5 million to 61 per cent. This, they argued, was proof that the individual travel agent and specialist tour operator was not suffering.

More than that, the OFT had received no more than a handful of complaints from the public, they said. The big conglomerates believe there is no case to answer and they are convinced that they have been able to offer the British holidaymaker a better deal and lower price than any other country's travel industry.

The slow move towards vertical integration began in 1972 when Thomson – the biggest tour operator, with a dominant 30 per cent share of the market – bought the Lunn Poly chain of travel agencies.

Their main argument at the Abta conference last week was that to sell a holiday from a major tour operator in the operator's own travel agency was at best unethical and possibly illegal. Customers

would get biased information and advice, they said.

If a holidaymaker asked for a particular break in a Going Places shop, for example, he was likely to be shown only an Airtours brochure because Airtours owns the 700 Going Places shops. A typical high street travel agent would have between 100 and 150 brochures on display and up to 400 in stock.

The MMC is certain to investigate the linkage of compulsory holiday insurance to particular packages. This can add up to 20 per cent to the cost of a holiday, which is often not made clear in brochures. Last week Abta reached a voluntary agreement with the Advertising Standards Authority to end the hiding of such costs, but the practice still goes on.

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would get biased information and advice, they said.

These, he said, included measures to stop Lunn Poly negotiating freely with operators during key periods of the year and an insistence that Thomson Holidays should deal with all retailers on the same basis.

Mr Crossland insisted that Airtours was not at fault, and blamed Thomson's refusal to give assurances for the referral. Airtours was prepared to

look for "the good of choice" – more than 70 per cent of our turnover is from non-Airtours companies." Mr Bridgeman said: "The two leading travel companies with whom I have had discussions have argued that their practices are a reflection of the competition that prevails in the travel trade. My view is that they can distort the competition process."

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FIRE ACROSS THE CHA

Two years for pensioner who shot abusive tourists

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A PENSIONER who shot and wounded three abusive young day-trippers near his country cottage on the banks of Loch Lomond was jailed for two years yesterday. One victim nearly died, but the jury decided that Alexander Brown, 67, had acted under provocation.

A court heard that Brown had been plagued for years by drunken troublemakers at scenic Luss, featured on the TV soap opera *High Road*. He went to fetch his air rifle after police had failed to respond to two calls for help. Four months after the shooting, he was elected as a local community councillor.

Passing sentence at Dumbarton Sheriff Court, Sheriff Tom Scott said the maximum sentence he

faced was life imprisonment. If it had not been for the provocation, he would have been sent the High Court for sentence: "You left the scene, you returned to your home and got the gun before going back to use it. You had time to reflect. The message has to go out loud and clear that people who opt to solve their problems with a gun will be dealt with most seriously."

Brown, a retired TV sound recordist, had been disturbed on a Saturday afternoon last August by a group of young men swimming in Luss Water burn, which runs along the foot of his garden. Brown asked them to leave and informed them they were on private property, but said he was showered with abuse and stones. He went to his cottage to telephone the police twice

to complain, but said that an "officious" receptionist told him the local constable was too busy.

He admitted telling her: "I have to protect myself." But he claimed: "I did not mean that I would take the law into my own hands."

Carrying his air rifle, he returned to the burn, where he said that he was again pelted with stones and threatened with remarks such as: "There's that baldy old bastard, let's get him."

He said: "I wanted to persuade them to leave. I felt frightened and vulnerable. I thought if they saw me with a gun, it would frighten them off." He denied that he intended to fire the weapon, but when they continued to mock him, he loaded it with pellets and fired six shots at the rocks beneath them:



Brown, right, went to fetch his rifle after police calls failed

Brown admitted that when told of the extent of the men's injuries he was "shocked and very concerned". His solicitor, Gary McAtee, told the court that he had been tormented over a period of years and had reacted after a build-up of frustration with the authorities: "Mr Brown retired to Luss to have a

peaceful existence. This was interrupted and affected by a series of incidents. He is an old man who was tormented and who reacted when the police were of little assistance. He bitterly regrets it."

Brown was found guilty on four firearms charges, including one of causing severe injury and permanent disfigurement. After the sen-

tence, his distraught wife, Irene, said: "I just don't know how he will cope with prison. It is an enormous worry." One of his victims, David Butler, said: "I expected and hoped he would be jailed, but I think two years is a bit harsh for an old man."

The young men admitted being in high spirits as they swam and dived into a deep rock pool, but Mr Butler said: "I don't accept that we provoked him. We weren't doing any harm. He was the one who came back and got aggressive. Some of us did throw things at him, but that was after he started shooting. We retaliated."

Mr Reid's father, Donald, 55, said: "Jail is the only suitable sentence. He nearly killed my boy. A man that age should know better."

Coal mine blamed for city tremors

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

SCIENTISTS solved the mystery of the Edinburgh earthquakes yesterday, as the city shook for the eighteenth time in about a month. The British Geological Survey blamed Monktonhall Colliery, to the east of the city, which has opened a new coalface.

Yesterday's tremor, at 1.46pm, measured 1.2 on the Richter scale and was felt by residents a few miles away. For the past month, seismologists from the survey have been monitoring ground movements in the Newcraighall, Musselburgh and Portobello areas. Yesterday they confirmed suspicions that the earthquakes were caused by collapsing old mine workings or by the new mine workings at Monktonhall.

They presented their evidence to colliery management, the Health and Safety Executive, and local and central government. Richard Ord, chief executive of Monktonhall Colliery, said that his staff would study the findings carefully.

Bob Stevenson, HM Principal Inspector of Mines, said: "The mine is doing nothing wrong, it is operating under normal mining practices. But they are currently working in an area where there is considerable old mine workings, overlain with strong rock which, when stress-relieved, causes tremors."

"I would not expect these tremors to result in any danger to property or the public. That is extremely unlikely."

Alice Walker, head of seismic analysis at the British Geological Survey in Edinburgh, said the chipping away of coal had caused movements in the ground around the mine. She expected the tremors to continue until the new coalface moved past whatever it had disturbed, possibly rock structures above.



The three new colours, being modelled yesterday, are lime green, cerise and terracotta. Royal blue, already in existence, is also for sale, for an estimated £20,000 to £30,000

Sale adds a new dash of colour to the racing scene

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE rulers of British horseracing are betting that the equine equivalent of personalised number plates will prove a winner with owners.

Three sets of plain racing silks, which have never been available before, are to be auctioned by Sotheby's next week for up to £30,000 each. Plain silks are considered far more desirable than the decorated versions, partly because of their exclusivity.

A successful bid for the new sets

will put their owners among a horseracing elite. Others include the Derby-winning owners Lord de Walden (apricot) and Fahd Salman (dark green). Sheikh Mohammed's highly successful Godolphin team, which sent out the 2,000 Guineas winner Mark of Esteem, races in royal blue, terracotta and cerise.

A winning bid will secure the new owners the right to register the colours with the British Horseracing Board, the sport's governing authority. However, they will also have to

pay an annual rental of about £20 before their chosen jockey can wear them in earnest. This is the first time that the right to register racing colours has been auctioned in public. Previously it was sold through the trade press by sealed bid.

The sale of the "Cherished Colours" range also includes a combination of shades not been available before, such as gold and silver. The new colours bring the permitted number of shades to 25.

The Marquess of Hartington, deputy chairman of Sotheby's Hold-

ings and former Senior Steward of the Jockey Club, said: "The single colours are very appealing because there are so few of them. They show up very well, which is a good thing, unless the horse is right at the back. There are a lot of people who want to get into racing and a single colour is an exciting way to start."

Hugo Swire, Sotheby's deputy director in charge of the sale, said that the sale of the colours was only a small part of the proceedings, called The Racing Sale and subtitled A Celebration of the Turf. Also for sale

Racing, page 45

Boy aged 14 set fire to tramp and killed him

By TIM JONES

A BOY aged 14 who admitted killing a tramp by setting fire to him was sentenced to 3½ years' detention yesterday.

Winchester Crown Court was told that Ian Flanagan was one of a group of 15 youths who had indulged in dreadful conduct towards Alan Whittle. Mr Whittle had been sitting on park bench in Eastleigh, Hampshire, when Flanagan had set fire to his jacket with a cigarette lighter.

Passing sentence, Mr Justice Ian Kennedy told Flanagan, who was 13 at the time of the offence and who admitted manslaughter, that he was not by nature a wicked boy. "You are thoughtless, a bully, but you are not deeply wicked." Mr Whittle had been "an unhappy man who lived a hopeless life, a sad pathetic life, harming no one except himself".

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As of now:

Tiger and sheep will see lion out of colony

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

Jon Buck and his bronze, destined for Hong Kong

was, however, aware that a whole raft of items were being made for the building. A spokesman at the Foreign Office in London said that the bronze was part of its contract and that art worth £120,000 was being commissioned for the building.

The artist explained that Terry Farrell Associates had contacted him and other sculptors to take a portfolio of work to Hong Kong. "My work was chosen for the interior," Mr Buck said.

Rungwe Kingdom, owner of the Pangolin Editions foundry at Chalford, Gloucestershire, said: "The work is called *New*

Age, to symbolise the new optimism." Explaining the significance of the tiger and sheep, he said: "They are important animals in the Chinese calendar and mythologically in China."

He added: "The artist didn't want to get political and animals are a safe subject, yet they are symbolic of a new harmonious relationship."

The work, which draws on Indian, African and Romanesque imagery, is due to be completed in four weeks, when it will be flown to Hong Kong. It will be there for the opening of the consulate-general building on January 13.

Sleeping rough in the doorway to fame

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A YOUNG man who slept rough on the streets of London may model for Calvin Klein after being spotted by the fashion designer in a book about the capital's homeless.

Until recently Shaun Yates, 25, slept in shop doorways in central London after leaving the Army five years ago and had no idea that agents for the American designer were trying to find him. He was

eventually tracked down to a boxing club in north London where he has recently started training.

Mr Yates's change of fortune started when his photograph was included in a book about the homeless by the photographer Michael Heffernan. At his New York offices, Calvin Klein apparently spotted the picture and the hunt for his subject began. He was discovered only when an advertisement was placed in a national newspaper ask-

ing if anyone knew him. Ron Hagland, his boxing trainer at Islington Boys Club, spotted the small ad and rang Calvin Klein to tell them Mr Yates was one of his amateur welterweights.

Mr Yates, originally from St Helens in Lancashire, was nonchalant yesterday. "I'm just happy to have got off the streets and got my life together. If something comes of this it will be fantastic. I'll just go with the flow and see what happens," he said.



Yates: nonchalant

The artist, Jon Buck, is a bronze sculptor. The sculpture is destined for Hong Kong. The artist is a bronze sculptor.

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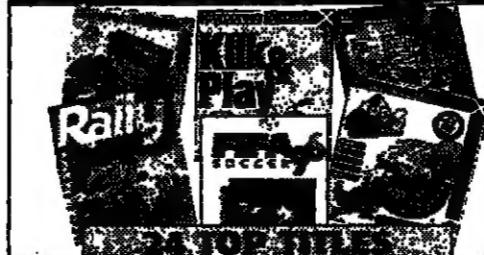
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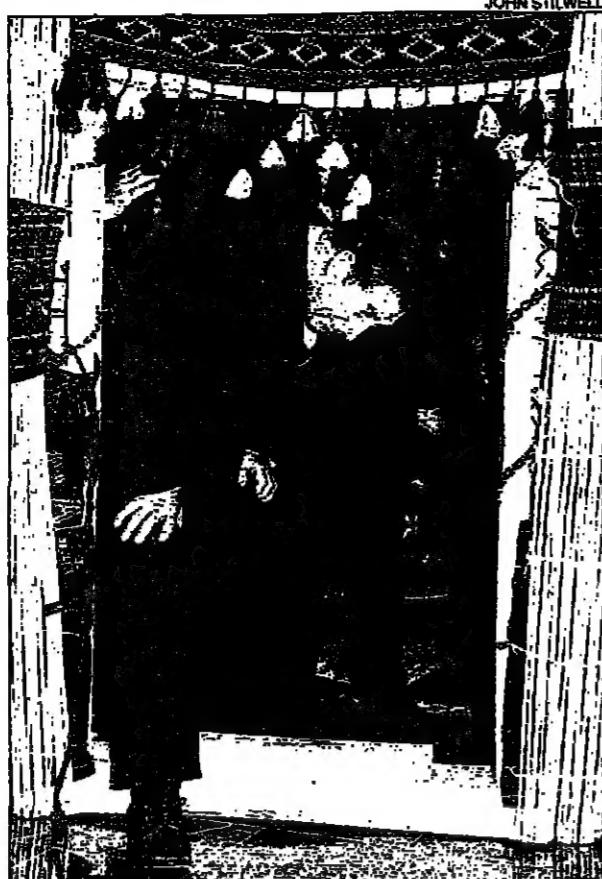
Prince steps out on Silk Road, grandmother at Abbey

THE Prince of Wales climbed the walls of an ancient city on the Silk Road yesterday and voiced his disapproval at restoration work being carried out in the former Soviet republic of Turkmenistan.

On the fourth day of a nine-day tour of new Asian states that once formed the Islamic south of the Soviet Union, the Prince arrived at Merv, now called Mary, where he saw the 12th-century mausoleum of Sultan Sanjar. As he viewed the relic, he urged Turkmen scholars engaged in its restoration to use original materials rather than new bricks: he also noticed that some arches had been rebuilt in a Turkish-style V-shape rather than in their original curved pattern.

"I hope you are going to keep as much of the original as possible," the Prince told his hosts.

Potential diplomatic embarrassment was avoided when President Niyazov was dissuaded by British officials from presenting the Prince with the traditional gift of a horse. Instead, the President gave him a carpet — not subject to British quarantine regulations.



The Prince emerges from a yurt, or tent, at a carpet museum, where he was presented with a gift

JOHN STILWELL
QUEEN ELIZABETH the Queen Mother, braving a chill wind and the weight of her 96 years, spent an hour with war veterans yesterday at the Royal British Legion's annual Field of Remembrance ceremony at Westminster Abbey.

Dressed in black and with a large poppy at her lapel, the Queen Mother appeared in good health as she walked the 30 yards from her car to the service and back again, aided by a stick upon which she leaned only lightly. Although wearing what has become a permanent bandage on her left leg, she showed every sign of enjoying the benefits of last year's hip replacement operation.

Her hosts had erected a small lectern on which the Queen Mother placed her commemorative cross, inscribed simply "In Remembrance, 1996". Flanked by the Dean of Westminster, the Very Rev Michael Mayne, and Sara Jones, whose husband won a posthumous VC in the Falklands, the Queen Mother stood unaided for the two minutes' silence.

The Queen Mother then climbed into her chauffeur-

driven battery-powered golf buggy and spent 40 minutes driving among veterans who had come to plant crosses in memory of dead comrades. An unusual guest at the ceremony was General Ivan Dolnicar, 75, from Slovenia, who in 1944 was a leader of the Yugoslav partisans under Tito whom Churchill gave Allied support.

Remembrance ceremonies have a poignancy for the Queen Mother far beyond her having been Queen Consort during the Second World War. She lost two brothers in the trenches of the Western Front during the earlier conflict.

Legion officials hope that this weekend's remembrance ceremonies will include an observance of two minutes' silence at 11am on Monday, the anniversary of the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918, when the guns finally fell silent.

Queen Elizabeth was born in 1900. During her lifetime an estimated 1.1 million British servicemen have died in action, more than 12,000 of them since the end of the Second World War.



The Queen Mother leaving the Field of Remembrance ceremony yesterday

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Kaufman says press watchdog 'like a eunuch'

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LORD WAKEHAM, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, was embroiled in furious exchanges with MPs yesterday when he warned against legal curbs on newspaper payments to trial witnesses.

Gerald Kaufman, chairman of the National Heritage Committee, accused him of sounding "like a eunuch" in putting the case for press self-regulation rather than statutory control. Lord Wakeham, a former Conservative minister, retorted that there was no more "offensive manner of remarks" than Mr Kaufman "and he is not as good as he used to be, because he is getting older".

The Tory MP Sir John Gorton asked whether there was not a strong case for legislation — as set out last week by the Lord Chancellor — "rather than to leave matters to the blandishments of the toothless body that you have". Lord Wakeham was ruled out of order by Mr Kaufman as he sought to suggest that Sir John's criticisms had

been "as good as he used to be, because he is getting older".

The defence of acting in the public interest — which is defined in the industry's revised code — would still need definition in statute.

Lord Wakeham added that

the defence of acting in the public interest — which is defined in the industry's revised code — would still need definition in statute.

from a PCC rejection of a complaint he had made.

The heritage committee is inquiring into press activity affecting court cases. The inquiry was launched before the Lord Chancellor's consultation paper last week, which proposed new laws and highlighted four high-profile trials where payments were made.

Lord Wakeham said it would be wrong to take away the principle of a free press "for four cases in 40 years — and only one in the past ten years — none of which resulted in a miscarriage of justice."

He said that the press had devised a "new, tighter" code governing payments to witnesses and that should be given time to work. "If it does not, I shall be the first to say I can't make it work and the Government will have to legislate."

Lord Wakeham added that

the defence of acting in the public interest — which is defined in the industry's revised code — would still need definition in statute.

THE TIMES DILLONS FORUM

Life class

A chance to question
Stephen Jay Gould



Stephen Jay Gould, one of the most popular and controversial science writers, returns to the evolution debate ground in this Times/Dillons forum on Monday, November 11. Professor Gould will argue that the idea of progress is an illusion. Evolution, he maintains, is not a steady upward advance led by mankind but a rich and unpredictable diversity.

The forum, which marks the publication of *Life's Grandeur: The Spread of Excellence from Plato to Darwin* (Jonathan Cape, £16.99), will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1 at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 (concessions £7.50) which includes £2 off the price of Professor Gould's book, are available by phoning 0171-467-1613, by faxing the coupon below to 0171-467-1690, or by sending the coupon, with your remittance, to Dillons, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ, where tickets can also be bought.

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New computer system at root of trouble but airport blames airline luggage handlers

BA to compensate passengers for baggage confusion

BY ADRIAN LEE

THOUSANDS of British Airways passengers who were separated from their luggage for up to two days will be eligible for compensation, the airline said yesterday. The total bill for the airline, which had to deliver luggage to hotels all over the world, is expected to run into tens of thousands of pounds.

Baggage handlers were still struggling to clear the backlog yesterday as BA and Heathrow Airport disagreed over the root of the problem. BA said a computer fault caused baggage carousels in Terminal 4 to grind to a halt. Sources at the airport said the new German system, which became operational last Sunday, had already crashed several times.

But a spokesman for Heathrow Airport Ltd blamed airline baggage handlers for failing to deal with luggage.

Engineers from Siemens,

the company which made the computer software, were flown in from Germany. The new system reads barcodes on luggage labels, then activates the conveyor-belt system to send the bags to aircraft. BA said it was too early to say if it would seek compensation from the manufacturers. The belts were installed in 1986, when Terminal 4 opened, and handle 16,000 bags every day.

"We have traced the fault and hopefully fixed it and the backlog should be cleared by the end of the day," a BA spokesman said yesterday. He described a dispute involving a "small number" of handlers as an insignificant factor in the backlog.

George Ryde, national secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union's civil air transport group, also said baggage handlers were not

responsible for the backlog. There had been no industrial action, he said.

Baggage handling is now a major issue for airports, with Heathrow considered to be lagging behind many of its competitors. Richard Whitaker, editor of *Airline Business* magazine, said it was crucial that the designers of Terminal 5, currently at the public inquiry stage, got it exactly right. Several months should be allowed for testing problems: "Most airports are

now moving towards an automated baggage system because it is much quicker and more cost effective. The trouble is when something goes wrong there is no one to do it."

Older airports faced problems with new systems because there was insufficient time to test them.

A spokesman for *Holiday Which?*, published by the Consumers' Association, called on British Airways to introduce better contingency plans.



Baggage carts, shrouded against rain, waiting to be loaded at Heathrow Airport's Terminal 4 yesterday

Council to pay £1,000 for noisy neighbour

A WOMAN is to be given £1,000 compensation by her local council because it failed to stop her being tormented by a noisy neighbour.

Stratford-on-Avon council in Warwickshire has agreed to pay the full amount recommended by the ombudsman for "maladministration causing injustice". At first it had contested the amount as "excessive" and offered £150 as a goodwill payment.

The unnamed woman suffered five years of distress caused by her neighbour's barking dogs and loud music played in the early hours. An eviction order finally granted in 1993 was not enforced because the neighbour appealed and made counter-claims that her flat was damp, before eventually accepting a transfer in 1995.

The ombudsman said handling of complaints was be-devilled by poor communication between council departments. Stratford's chief executive Ian Prosser said it had now established written guidelines to prevent mistakes happening again.

Why schizophrenia drug is so prized

MEDICAL BRIEFING

A NEW preparation for the treatment of schizophrenia was the star of the show at the International Prix Galien on Wednesday night in London. The competition is open to pharmaceutical firms from all over the world and is held to honour those who have produced the best new drugs or appliances.

Gerald Malone, the Health Minister, presented the first prize to Janssen-Cilag for Risperidol (risperidone). Despite the availability of new drugs for therapy in schizophrenic patients, over 80 per cent of patients in long-term care have not had their routine treatment changed and are still using drugs available for 20 or 30 years.

Risperidol has many advantages over existing therapy. The patients are particularly grateful for its absence of severe and distressing side-effects. This freedom from serious side-effects encourages schizophrenic patients to persevere with their treatment, which is particularly important persuading them to comply with doctor's orders has always been one of the

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

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Judge regrets harsh decision to discount debt of honour to Nepali boy's dead father

Millionaire's 'son' loses court battle against deportation

By LIN JENKINS

THE millionaire leader of a commune based in a castle was preparing to take his followers into exile yesterday after a court upheld a decision to deport a young Nepali he calls his son.

Jay Khadka, 19, who has been brought up in Britain for the past six years by Richard Morley, has been told he cannot remain here. Mr Justice Laws dismissed a challenge to the Home Secretary's decision to expel him, despite a recommendation by an immigration appeals tribunal that he should be allowed to stay on compassionate grounds.

Mr Khadka was brought up as an English gentleman after Mr Morley took him from a mud-brick hut in the Himalayas as a debt of honour to his father. Twelve years ago, while 17,000ft up in the Annapurna mountains, Mr Morley

suffered a collapsed lung and would have died had a Nepali policeman not trekked 60 miles in three days to summon a helicopter. The man refused a reward, but asked Mr Morley to look after his son should he die, which he did in 1988. Since 1990, Mr Khadka has lived as part of the family that is currently made up of eight members aged between 18 and 43 at Clearwell Castle in the Forest of Dean. Mr Morley says the commune has vowed to stay together and, if Mr Khadka is deported, they will all leave.

After the reserved judgment at the High Court, Mr Khadka said: "I think it is terrible, not just for me but for my family. I am very disappointed. I don't think Mr Howard has seen the compassionate side of this case."

Mr Morley, 42, added: "It is

a sad day for human rights in Britain. I am extremely disappointed and heartbroken. I think Michael Howard has made a dreadful decision and even though the judge says his own opinions don't matter, I think he probably feels likewise."

A spokesman for the Home Office said that it would be in touch with Mr Khadka's solicitor to give him a date by which he should leave. Where the commune will settle has not been decided. However, Mr Morley will see Nepal's Prime Minister, Sher Bahadur Deuba, on Monday to discuss the idea of moving there.

Mr Howard ruled that

Mr Howard's decision was within his statutory powers. "I am unable to conclude that the Secretary of State's decision in this case was beyond the

range of responses open to a reasonable decision maker. Many might regard the result he arrived at as harsh."

In a 17-page judgment, he said Mr Howard was entitled to regard Mr Morley's solemn debt of honour as a background matter and to judge

for himself the compassionate merits of Mr Khadka's application against the need of the policy to restrict numbers coming into this country. "His decision was taken as the people's democratic representative. If I were to overturn it I would usurp that role, which

is no business of mine to do."

Helen Thomas, 41, a member of the commune, stood in tears holding hands with Mr Morley after the judgment. The judge said she had been a mother figure to Mr Khadka.

She said: "I am absolutely devastated. I view him almost

as my own son." She said that all the members of the project would leave the country and live together abroad.

At a later hearing, the judge ordered Mr Khadka to pay the Home Office's legal costs estimated at around £20,000 — and refused leave to appeal.



Richard Morley and Jay Khadka at the High Court yesterday after the hearing. Leave to appeal was refused

Police to store 200,000 handguns

Police forces must prepare to store 200,000 legal and illegal handguns, chief constables will be told today. Under proposed laws, about 40,000 legally owned 22 handguns would have to be held in secure gun clubs or by the police; few clubs are likely to reach the required standard. Forces will also have to store illegal weapons before they are destroyed. Firearms experts from the Association of Chief Police Officers will discuss the implications of the legislation today.

Suspect's suicide

Glen Chain, 43, a South African facing extradition on suspicion of murdering Simon Law, 33, an accountant, of Elmsted, Kent, has hanged himself in a Johannesburg prison. Mr Law, whose body has never been found, disappeared in April 1991.

Carnaby St sold

Carnaby Street in London has been sold by its Dutch owners for £90 million. The street's 93 buildings, including shops and studios, have been bought by the Shaftesbury property company, which owns large parts of Covent Garden and Chinatown.

Murder denied

A 13-year-old boy denied murdering Jade Matthews, 9, at Netherthorpe, Merseyside, on July 7. Liverpool Crown Court fixed his trial to begin on January 14. Jade disappeared from near her home in Boote 7 and her body was found the next morning on a railway siding.

Securicor theft

A Securicor van was stolen from Brighton town centre after its driver left the keys in the ignition while emptying money from a telephone box. The van was found abandoned three hours later, minus bags of coins collected from other kiosks.

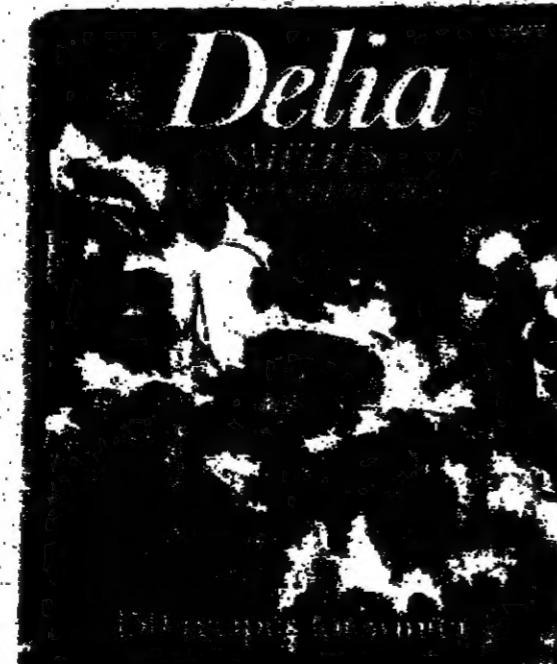
Crucial date

Charles Kray, 70, and two other men accused of involvement in an alleged £78 million cocaine supply ring were sent for trial in Woolwich Crown Court on December 2. Magistrates of Bexley, southeast London, rejected a bail application by Kray.

Sale stopped

Chichester council has withdrawn two 18th-century armchairs, valued at £125,000, from an auction in London after a last-minute offer from the Earl of March and Kintore, a descendant of the 3rd Duke of Richmond who gave them to the city in 1785.

A festive warning from WHSmith: Buy a bigger stocking.



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DICK FRANCIS

Sid Halley is back - investigating a vicious crime that almost defies belief...

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OUR NEW PAPERBACK

WHATEVER THEY'RE INTO, GET INTO WHSMITH

Blow to rivals as Yeltsin quick to get back on his feet

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN reassured Russians yesterday that he was back in control of the country, as doctors reported that he was now able to walk by himself.

"Dear Russians, I am happy to inform you that the operation was successful," he said in a statement released by the Kremlin. "I am back at work again." Although he will remain in intensive care for at least one more day, he may be moved to the more comfortable surroundings of the nearby Kremlin hospital if doctors are satisfied that there are no complications after his heart bypass operation.

Certainly, the operation did not appear to dampen the Russian leader's eagerness to get back into the political fray and he moved quickly to take on his hardline opponents as they marched in their thousands to celebrate the 79th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution. In a move bound

to infuriate his Communist rivals, the President signed a decree officially changing the traditional "Revolution Day" holiday into a "Day of Concord and Reconciliation". Communist symbols, which still remain across Russia, will be replaced by monuments to the millions of victims of Soviet rule.

"To this day our people are divided into reds and whites," said the Kremlin leader in a written address. "It is time to close the book. We have one Russia and we must be united."

His calls for reconciliation won little sympathy with the hardline Communist demonstrators who turned out in their tens of thousands across Russia's main cities, and even the former Soviet republics of Belarus and Ukraine, to mourn the collapse of communism. In Moscow about 20,000 mainly elderly marchers, many clutching red



Communists carry portraits of Lenin and Soviet-era flags past a Moscow advertisement as they march to mark the 79th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution



Iliescu: poor prospects in presidential run-off

Poll pact may defeat Iliescu

Bucharest: Romania's two main opposition groups joined forces yesterday in an attempt to oust the incumbent Ion Iliescu in presidential elections and to complete the rout of former Communists after their defeat in parliamentary polls.

The pact pledges support to Emil Constantinescu, who came second in the opening round of the presidential poll to Iliescu, Romania's leader since 1989. The two men will compete in a run-off poll on November 17.

Mr Iliescu is urging voters to re-elect him as President to preserve stability and to soften the social impact of reform. (Reuters)

Icelandic floods run up £10m bill

FROM REUTER IN REYKJAVIK

ICELAND yesterday estimated that the flooding prompted by a sub-glacial volcano had caused more than £10 million damage, and scientists issued a warning that more eruptions were possible in the remote area.

The melt flow from a lake in southeastern Iceland under the Vatnajokull icefield, Europe's largest glacier, was returning to normal two days after a torrent of black sulphurous water and debris flooded an uninhabited plain, media reports said.

The torrent, which pushed hundreds of huge chunks of ice several miles, smashed bridges and swept away power lines and parts of the 22-mile stretch of Iceland's coastal ring-road, which snakes past the glacier.

Hreinn Haraldsson, the director of research and development at the Public Road Administration, said temporary bridges would be built in six to eight weeks to restore traffic on the road. "It will then take one to two years to rebuild the bridges," he said.

Scientists said more eruptions could take place beneath the glacier, which covers two of Iceland's most active volcanoes.

Bundesbank chief 'sabotaging EMU'

FROM PETER BILD IN BONN

AN ASTONISHING attack has been made on Dr Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank president, accusing him of running an assiduous campaign to prevent a single currency and to sabotage Chancellor Helmut Kohl's drive for European integration.

In an open letter in the influential weekly *Die Zeit*, Helmut Schmidt, the former Chancellor, says Dr Tietmeyer is damaging his country's international interests and stirring up fears that it is trying to dominate Europe. Herr Schmidt accuses the Bundesbank president of trying to run "a state within a state".

The core of Herr Schmidt's case is that Dr Tietmeyer's repeated insistence on "strict adherence" to specific financial criteria for EMU distorts the Maastricht treaty and is designed to prevent the euro's launch in 1999. He says Dr Tietmeyer has falsely tried to persuade the public that the

convergence criteria are absolute and binding.

The Maastricht protocol sets out six criteria for joining a single currency. The most widely quoted would exclude nations whose total public sector deficit exceeds 3 per cent of GDP. Whether single currencies are "in" or "out" will be determined on the basis of 1997 data.

Herr Schmidt says the Bundesbank president crucially fails to explain that article 104c of the EU treaty, inserted by Maastricht, allows European government leaders wide scope in deciding EMU membership without reference to the criteria.

The European Union will decide on EMU's founder members in early 1998.

Herr Schmidt says that Dr Tietmeyer gives the clear impression that he does not want EMU in 1999, despite claiming to favour currency union.

A Bundesbank spokesman said Dr Tietmeyer would not be responding to the attack.

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No early relief for space crew

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

STUCK in space with toilets close to overflowing, the Russian-American team aboard the Mir space station were yesterday given the bad news that it will be at least February before they can return to Earth.

A cash shortage means that a replacement crew of two Russians and a German cannot now be launched until the middle of next month, as originally intended. Officials at mission control outside Moscow said the financial problems had delayed production of the Soyuz booster rockets needed to launch a replacement crew.

□ Mars missions: The first of a trio of satellites bound for Mars left the launch pad at Cape Canaveral yesterday at the start of its ten-month journey. Mars Global Surveyor, delayed for a day by bad weather, was launched successfully soon after 1900 local time. It should reach Mars next September. After six months of getting into the correct orbit, it will begin mapping the Martian surface. It will be followed in ten days by the Russian Mars 96 probe and by the American Mars Pathfinder next month.

The news may not have come as much of a surprise to John Blaha, the American on board, and Valery Korzun and Aleksandr Kaleri, his Russian colleagues who have been on board the ten-year-old Mir since September 19.

Last month the launch of an uncrewed craft that was intended to bring them food,

water and fuel was put off because of the cash crisis.

Mir has never been noted for its creature comforts, but this mission is going slightly less well than usual. The

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Plan is drawn up for multinational troops to seize Goma airport and fly in food

Paris condemns 'spineless' nations in Zaire conflict

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANCE yesterday virtually accused Britain of "spinelessness" for failing to back its proposal to send a multinational military force into Zaire to protect a million refugees threatened by ethnic fighting.

"I'm knocking on doors, asking if anyone is prepared to shoulder their responsibilities. The answer is: 'Could you come back tomorrow? or 'We might lend an aircraft,'" Hervé de Charene, the French Foreign Minister, complained in a television interview. "The main obstacle is the international community's spinelessness."

Last night, Baroness

Chalker of Wallasey, the Overseas Development Minister, dismissed M de Charene's remarks as daft. "He ought to find out what the facts are before he accuses people of things," she said as she arrived for a meeting of European Union aid ministers in Brussels to discuss the situation in eastern Zaire.

Coming just hours before a Franco-British summit in Bordeaux, M de Charene's remarks have been interpreted as an indirect criticism of Britain, which remains deeply wary of the French initiative.

FRANCE

France has insisted that all major powers must take part in any intervention in Zaire, but so far only Spain and Ethiopia have agreed to contribute troops.

M de Charene said he believed there was still time to mount a multinational force, but insisted "it should have been done already". France is considering plans to take over control of airports at Goma and Bukavu, seized by Tutsi rebels, to fly in emergency food and supplies, according to French press reports.

The French Foreign Ministry denied that men and equipment were already being assembled at French military bases in Africa but the Defence Ministry said forces

could begin moving into the area within three days after getting the go-ahead from the United Nations.

President Mobutu of Zaire, who is recuperating from cancer surgery in his villa in the south of France, has said he supports a multinational intervention force, but Zairean government officials called on aid agencies to stop distributing

food in the war zone in Zaire to encourage the refugees to go home. "We are asking humanitarian organisations to stop distributing any aid to the refugees on Zairean soil. Instead, they must distribute aid in Rwanda and Burundi," a spokesman said.

Brussels. The European Union appealed last night to the UN Security Council to give urgent authority to an international peacekeeping force in the Great Lakes region to open the way to EU relief to Rwandan refugees (Charles Brenner writes).

Ministers from the 15 EU states agreed to give immediate backing to an international relief effort as soon as safe corridors were established by the force under discussion at the UN.

The humanitarian operation can leave tomorrow morning," said Emma Bonino, the EU Commissioner for foreign aid. "We have plenty of food and medicine, transport and personnel in the area. We are ready but we are being barred from going in," she said.

Leading article, page 21



Laurent Kabila, the political leader of the rebel forces fighting in Zaire, speaks to the press in Bukavu this week. His soldiers control eastern Zaire near Rwanda.

Chirac asserts moral authority in show of force

BY BEN MACINTYRE

FRANCE has demanded international support for its plan to send troops into eastern Zaire to prevent a humanitarian disaster, but the proposal springs from a peculiarly French view of its world role in which intervention in Africa is seen as a traditional right as much as a moral duty.

France has never been slow to deploy troops in Africa: over a year ago French paratroopers swiftly ended an attempted military coup in the Comoros and last year French tanks were on the streets of Bangui in the Central African Republic, facing down rebellious army troops.

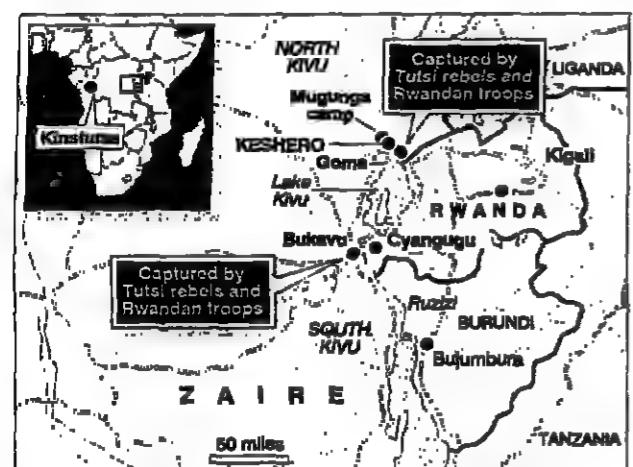
However, the experience of Operation Turquoise in 1994 in Rwanda, which was criticised as a move in support of France's former Hutu allies and a

furtherance of French interests in the region, has prompted a more careful approach this time. President Chirac has said France will not intervene without the participation of other main powers, most notably America, while emphasising that France's interests are strictly humanitarian.

With well-manned military bases in Djibouti and the Central African Republic and at least 6,000 troops based in six African states, France is well placed to provide the backbone of any intervention force. France has stepped up to help friendly governments or rescue its citizens in Africa more than a dozen times since the 1960s, and Africa remains the stage on which France is happiest to demonstrate its remaining clout. For although France's paternalist perception

has altered somewhat in recent years, it is still imbued in the national self-image.

The concept of *la francophonie*, the association of French-speaking countries around the world, is a cherished and powerful one. In Africa, France's zone of influence, political and economic as well as linguistic and cultural, includes not only its former colonies but also former Belgian colonies such as Zaire and Rwanda. By taking the lead in calls for military intervention, M Chirac has again demonstrated his determination to carry out an important role in international affairs as seen in the South African, Lebanon and Israel. French officials insist that only swift intervention will prevent massive loss of life in Zaire, but it will also cement the image M Chirac covets as a new de Gaulle in Africa.



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Fighting recalls Rwandan genocide and shows that few lessons have been learnt

Nightmare relived as tribal killings continue unchecked

DRIVING towards the front line between the rebels and the Rwandan Hutus yesterday, my stomach churned with a mixture of fear and hunger.

Three days of living off one bunch of bananas in a town cut off from the rest of the country and paralysed by fear leaves one queasy. I was confronted with a vision of almost unimaginable horror, with villagers telling me that their tribal brothers are kidnapping their children and holding them as hostages inside Mugunga. I am back, I realise, to where we were two years ago.

In May 1994 I was sneaking in behind the then Rwandan government lines in the dead of night. In one 15-mile stretch Tutsi bodies were only three yards apart, on both sides of the road. Hutu militiamen, covered in blood and drunk on slaughter, slobbered against the car window and mistook my shaven head for that of a French legionnaire. "Vous êtes en mission?" "Oui". They waved me through, believing I was on their side. Had I been a French soldier, they would have been correct. France was

as culpable in the Rwandan genocide of a million people as the nastiest anti-Semites of the Vichy regime were in the Holocaust. Now the French Government is describing failure to intervene to protect the perpetrators of the genocide — crammed in the Mugunga camp in eastern Zaire — as "spineless", and is leaning on Britain to abstain in what would amount to a crime against humanity.

In June, 1994, as part of Operation Turquoise — the French "humanitarian intervention" in Rwanda — SAS-style troops flew into Butare hours before the Tutsi rebels took the city. They rescued Theoneste Bagasora, Rwanda's Himmler, the chief architect of the genocide. The French wanted him safely out of enemy hands so that he would not divulge how his murderous forces were armed and trained.

France established zone Turquoise — 5,000 Hutu soldiers and 100,000 militiamen were protected by their *cordon sanitaire*, or fled, fully armed, into Zaire.

Between July and September 1994, weapons paid for by the French were flown into Goma, where the Hutus were



Sam Kiley, living in fear near Zaire's front line, argues that foreign military intervention would be criminal

lashed an iron-handed extremist administration, in defiance of a United Nations arms embargo. The local French consul said: "The contract is dated from before the embargo, and should be fulfilled." Meanwhile, the UN refused calls to separate Hutu extremists from ordinary civilians, granting armed murderers refugee status.

A year later in Kibeho, central Rwanda, Tutsi soldiers in the Rwandan Patriotic Front lost their cool in a Hutu camp in central Rwanda. Stampeded by the Hutus and filled with hatred for people who murdered their families, and who then fled to Zaire and were protected by the French, they killed 1,500 people in a ghastly massacre.

More hideous still was a former medical centre in Kibeho. About 2,000 Hutus were crammed into a quarter acre quadrangle. The ground there was coated with faeces, children picked undigested maize grains from the floor and ate them, sitting on dead bodies. The dead

were not killed by the Tutsis — they had been macheted by their own leaders for trying to leave the compound under UN armed guard.

Their leaders, members of the Interahamwe (those who kill together), would rather hold their own people hostage than allow them to return home. They told their people that they would be slaughtered and, if that did not work, they chopped up the unbelievers.

In October this year, at Zaire's frontier post in Bukavu, Zairois Tutsis fled, chased by blood-crazed Hutu militiamen. Unbelievably the Hutus of Rwanda have brainwashed some Zairois into orchestrating a pogrom against the Tutsis. One of the militiamen, wearing a belt of grenades, chased a wealthy Tutsi family to the barrier. But at the border the family escaped. I started to weep and shake. I confess I wanted to kill him.

Last night we heard that America may help with logistics in

an intervention to save the Hutus of Mugunga, joining the French. That would safeguard the killers from rebel attacks, and allow them to keep their own people hostage — and to continue their slaughter with the protection of French soldiers.

The Hutus do have a choice — they can go home to Rwanda. Safe passage has been guaranteed by the rebels and the UN will monitor human rights.

Military intervention in eastern Zaire is not needed. It would be criminal.



Outstretched hands: food is handed to local people at a United Nations distribution point in Goma yesterday. Zaire said it was asking aid agencies not to use its soil to supply food to more than a million stranded refugees from Rwanda and Burundi

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John Major



Middle East peace should top agenda in US, says Rifkind

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

Bijur: public apology

Texaco in row over racial slurs

New York: Texaco, the international oil company and petrol distributor, is fighting for its corporate image after two senior American executives referred to blacks as "niggers" and "black jelly beans". (Quentin Letts writes).

The men were recorded in a 1994 meeting with another Texaco employee who later left the company and turned whistleblower. Texaco's chairman, Peter Bijur, went on national television and apologised.

THE Middle East should be the main focus of the re-elected Clinton Administration, Britain believes. Following his visit to Jerusalem and the West Bank, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, believes that unless America remains urgently involved, the peace process is in danger of collapse.

While Britain remained officially neutral in the American election, there are clear signs of relief in Whitehall at Mr Clinton's re-election, if only because it ensures continuity in foreign policy. "The worst thing would have been a new administration that took three or four months to formulate policy on sensitive areas such as the Middle East," a senior official said.

During his recent visit to Jerusalem, Hebron and Gaza, Mr Rifkind repeatedly insisted that Europe should not attempt to compete with the Americans as facilitators in

the Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations. "All the Arab leaders I have met confirmed that they would like greater European involvement in the Middle East but have emphasised that it should be complementary to the Americans," he said on his return.

Britain is not calling for pressure on Israel: officials insist that this would be counter-productive, especially if there was an attempt to use economic pressure. But Mr Rifkind left no doubt in the minds of Israeli and Arab officials that he believes America should make clear to Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, world concern over the peace process. He said that a deal on Hebron must be clinched soon.

Mr Clinton will want to deliver a policy success," a senior official said. "He won't cease to be sympathetic to Israel, but I would be surprised if he doesn't use his full

authority to demand that Israel makes a greater effort to reach an accommodation that can be accepted by the Palestinians."

Another area where Britain is hoping for American leadership is the honing of Nato's policy on enlargement. Britain hopes the Clinton Administration will step up efforts to convince Moscow that this does not threaten Russia. But officials recognise that negotiations will have to wait until President Yeltsin has recovered from surgery.

■ **Jerusalem:** In a deadly new tactic, Iranian-backed Hezbollah fighters in southern Lebanon are using replica rocks made out of glass fibre to disguise roadside bombs against occupying Israeli troops. (Christopher Walker writes). The "rock bombs", filled with plastic explosive and half-inch ball bearings, can penetrate steel. They are made in Iran.



Gaza schoolchildren make their way home past graffiti depicting a Palestinian gunman. Israeli intelligence believes an attack by fundamentalists is imminent

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California court battles start over 'affirmative action' ban

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

FOR the second time in two years, Californian voters have passed a racially divisive constitutional amendment only to see it immediately bogged down in high-level legal wrangling.

Proposition 209, outlaws state programmes giving preference to ethnic minorities and women. Within hours of it becoming law, a flood of lawsuits by civil rights groups claiming that it was unconstitutional left experts predicting

it would be tied up in the courts until at least 1998.

In a virtual replay of scenes after the passage of a contentious 1994 anti-illegal immigration measure, lawyers from the American Civil Liberties Union were on the steps of San Francisco's federal courthouse by the time it opened on Wednesday morning.

"Top school, university and local government officials have told staff to go on administering 'affirmative action' programmes until a definitive ruling is issued.

The Los Angeles City Council, which represents a volatile ethnic melting pot and bitterly opposed Proposition 209, has warned state authorities it plans to ignore the measure. That stand sets the stage for a showdown with Pete Wilson, California's Republican Governor, who has vowed to end "affirmative action".

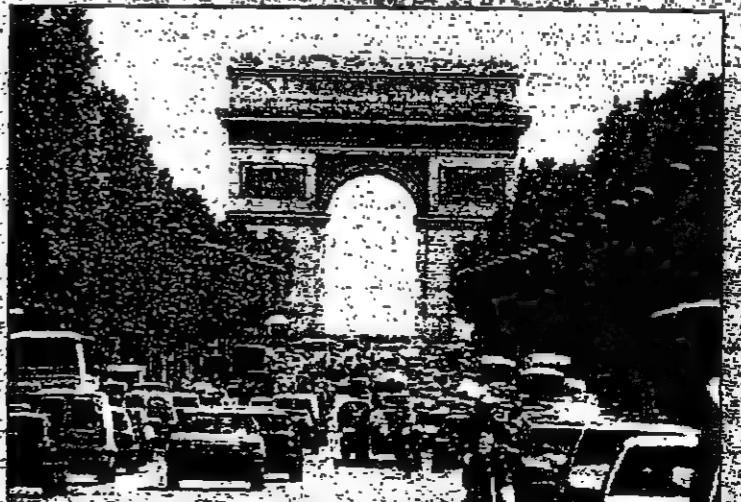
Leading article, page 21

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THE TIMES
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 CHANGING TIMES

Dredgers
 find TWA
 crash debris

New York: A large new haul of wreckage from the TWA Flight 800 disaster has been found by dredgers off New York's Long Island (Quentin Letts writes).

Crash investigators are still uncertain what caused the July 17 crash, which killed all 230 people aboard the Paris-bound TWA Boeing 747, but hope that the unexpected new find, which had been buried by sand, will assist them.

Italian arrests

Turin: Police in Italy said they had arrested 17 people on suspicion of supplying arms and other support to Algeria's radical Armed Islamic Group after raids on 60 homes in at least eight cities. (Reuters)

Fatal oil blast

Bangkok: At least 11 people died and 17 were injured when an illegal Thai oil depot exploded in Rayong province, 90 miles from the capital. The cause of the blast was not known. (AP)

Lisbon blaze

Lisbon: A fire raged in Lisbon's City Hall for nearly three hours, destroying the roof and top floor of the 19th century, four-storey palace, one of the country's main tourist attractions. (AP)

Buried alive

Peking: Song Xuehui, 15, buried his brother, 14, and sister, 11, alive, believing that as a single child he would have a better chance of attending university. He claimed they had been kidnapped. (AP)

Water music

Bangkok: More than 2,000 chanting carmen braved torrential rains to hold a centuries-old barge procession to celebrate Thai King Bhumibol's fifthtieth year on the throne. (Reuters)

Watch this space

Peking: China has 2,000 more islands and 51.13 more acres of farmland than previously thought, according to new photographs taken by a retrievable satellite that recently returned to Earth. (AP)

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US Congress set to give President a rougher ride

FROM BRONWEN MADDOK IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON will need a working relationship with the new Republican-controlled Congress. Yet behind the post-election talk of consensus from both sides, the ingredients are in place for four years of confrontation and frustration.

Despite Mr Clinton's decisive re-election, the results were a shared victory that divided power between the White House and Congress.

Republicans were rejoicing yesterday at having retained both the House of Representatives and the Senate. "We will control all the committees. We'll control the legislative process," said Bill Paxton, a New York congressman and chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee.

For the past two years, Mr Clinton wore the yoke of a Republican Congress lightly; it encouraged him to define himself as a moderate in contrast to the excesses of the radical House Republicans led by Newt Gingrich. But in his second term, the same circumstances look set to place him under formidable political and fiscal constraints.

A non-ideological politician facing a highly ideological Congress, he will also be under pressure to address the difficult policy questions that his first term succeeded in avoiding.

The election ate into the Republican House majority; when all results are in, the Republican advantage may be

227-207 with one independent, compared to the pre-election margin of 235-197 with one independent and two vacancies.

But despite the squeeze, Mr Gingrich's 1994 revolutionary freshmen proved unexpectedly resilient: of the 70 on the ballot, at least 55 have retained their seats.

The Senate has become more conservative; the Republican lead of 53-47 has grown by at least one seat.

Many of those retiring were moderates; many replacing them, such as Sam Brownback, are from the conservative wing, closely allied with the religious Right.

Despite the conservative flavour which Congress has retained, both sides have spent the past 48 hours practising the unfamiliar vocabulary of peace-making. Mr Clinton has said that it is time to "put aside the politics of division"; and Democratic Party insiders are speculating that he may offer leading Republicans — perhaps including Bob Dole — places on crucial committees.

Mr Gingrich, Speaker of the House, says he has had a "very positive" conversation with Mr Clinton and that "we are now going to work together".

Mr Clinton and Mr Gingrich are right that there is a consensus to be built: both parties now know that electoral appeal lies to the centre ground. As Mr Gingrich puts it: "He campaigned on a balanced budget, lower taxes, welfare reform. That certainly sounds like something I could

find a lot of common ground with. Our door is open."

For the moment, the extremes of both parties are silenced. As Patrick Kennedy, a liberal Democrat congressman from Rhode Island puts it, Mr Clinton "will undoubtedly leave many Democrats on the more liberal end alienated and disaffected". Prominent Republicans such as General Colin Powell are urging similar moderation on their party.

One test of the Republican party's commitment to the centre will be the fate of Mr Gingrich himself. Demonised throughout the campaign, he was an electoral liability, party insiders acknowledge. If he survives as Speaker, they expect him to have a diminished role.

Above all, Congress will force Mr Clinton to initiate policy, particularly on the political minefield of healthcare.



Carolyn McCarthy hugs her son, Kevin, after defeating her pro-gun rival. Her husband died and Kevin is still partially paralysed after a random shooting

Widow's crusade for gun controls leads to poll win

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

OF ALL the winners in the American election, none had a more emotional triumph than Carolyn McCarthy.

She is the widow whose fight for gun control after her husband's murder will now take her from her home town of Mineola on Long Island to a seat in the halls of Congress.

She trounced the Republican incumbent, Dan Frisa, who had unwisely voted to lift the ban on assault weapons. Just such a semi-automatic gun was wielded by Colin Ferguson, a Jamaican immigrant, on a commuter train three years ago. Mrs McCarthy's husband was one of six people who were killed. Nineteen others were wounded, including her son, Kevin, who was shot in the head. He is still partially paralysed but making a good recovery.

Mrs McCarthy gained a 57-to-41 per cent victory over her opponent. A nurse and a mother who had never thought of a political career, she was provoked into running by Mr Frisa's pro-gun campaign. A life-long Republican, she was forced to run as a Democrat. She has not changed her party affiliation, but will sit with the Democrats. She will fight for gun control, but promises not to be a one-issue legislator.

Nine of the 100 senators are now women, the most ever and Maine has now joined California as the only states to have both their Senate seats held by women.

One new Democratic senator is Max Cleland, who lost both legs and his right arm in Vietnam. He squeezed out a one-point victory in Georgia over Guy Millner, Republican "Christian businessman".

Also in Georgia, Cynthia McKinney, a Democrat, became the first black woman to

win a congressional seat from the South with a white majority. Sonny Bono, formerly of

the Bee Gees, was re-elected to Congress. He will be joined by another Republi-

cian who had earlier won fame. Jim Ryun, who held the

world record for the mile for nine years in the 1960s, won a seat from Kansas.

Clinton is urged to tackle dirty money

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AFTER all the speeches and spin, the single issue to emerge yesterday from the American election was: the need for both political parties to confront the flood of dirty money that has swamped the country's democracy.

The most expensive election in American history, which cost more than twice as much as the 1992 contest, ended with the Democrats spending an estimated \$250 million and the Republicans \$400 million on a lacklustre campaign that resulted in little more than the status quo.

For months Americans have voiced a sense of national revulsion at the lack of rules, penalties or limits to combat the wholesale purchase of political influence and endless negative advertising.

From the smallest state race in South Dakota to high-profile Senate races in New Jersey and North Carolina, where the candidates spent an extraordinary \$26 million, no American citizen may run for office without first swearing allegiance to Mammon.

The emergence shortly before the election of close links between President Clinton and foreign nationals in Asia was the most prominent example of how money may have been used to buy

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POETRY AND REMEMBRANCE

Unfit for heroes

UNTIL the British Legion was founded, old soldiers, with the exception of those taken care of by the Royal Hospital in Chelsea, were not well looked after. A Sergeant Brown, who had served 21 years in the 11th Hussars and had been at the Charge of the Light Brigade, received a pittance for a pension and ended up, via the workhouse, in a pauper's grave. Some resorted to thieving. The soldiers returning from the First World War did not find a land fit for heroes. One, like Corporal Butterfield from the Lancashire Regiment, was reduced to begging. In the Boer War, reservists were called up leaving families behind. Kipling wrote this poem in order to raise money for their wives and children. It was published separately by the *Daily Mail* and copies were sold.

KENNETH BAKER

RUDYARD KIPLING

The Absent-Minded Beggar

*When you've shouted 'Rule Britannia,' when you've sung
'God save the Queen.'
When you've finished killing Kruger with your mouth.
Will you kindly drop a shilling in my little tambourine
For a gentleman in khurki ordered South!
He's an absent-minded beggar, and his weaknesses are great -
But we and Paul must take him as we find him -
He is out on active service, wiping something off a slate -
And he's left a lot of little things behind him!
Duke's son - cook's son - sun of a hundred kings -
(Fifty thousand horse and foot going to Table Bay!)
Each of 'em doing his country's work
(and who's to look after their things?)
Pass the hat for your credit's sake,
and pay - pay - pay!*

*There are girls he married secret, asking no permission to.
For he knew he wouldn't get it if he did.
There is gas and coals and tities, and the house-rent falling due.
And it's more than rather likely there's a kid.
There are girls he walked with casual. They'll be sorry now
he's gone.
For an absent-minded beggar they will find him,
But it ain't the time for sermons with the winter coming on.
We must help the girl that Tommy's left behind him!
Cook's son - duke's son - son of a belted earl -
Son of a Lambeth publican - it's all the same to-day!
Each of 'em doing his country's work
(and who's to look after the girl?)
Pass the hat for your credit's sake,
and pay - pay - pay!*

*There are families by thousands, far too proud to beg or speak.
And they'll put their sticks and bedding up the spout.
And they'll live on half o' nothing, paid 'em punctual once a week.
'Cause the man that earns the wage is ordered out.
He's an absent-minded beggar, but he heard his country call.
And his reg'ment didn't need to send to find him!
He chuck'd his job and joined it - so the job before him all
Is to help the home that Tommy's left behind him!
Duke's job - cook's job - gardener, baronet, groom
Mews or palace or paper-shop, there's someone gone away!
Each of 'em doing his country's work
(and who's to look after the room?)
Pass the hat for your credit's sake,
and pay - pay - pay!*

*Let us manage so as, later, we can look him in the face,
And tell him - what he'd very much prefer -
That, while he saved the Empire, his employer saved his place
And his mates (that's you and me) looked out for her.
He's an absent-minded beggar and he may forget it all.
But we do not want his daddy to remind him
that we sent 'em to the workhouse while their daddy
hammered Paul.
So we'll help the homes that Tommy left behind him!
Cook's home - Duke's home - home of a millionaire.
(Fifty thousand horse and foot going to Table Bay!)
Each of 'em doing his country's work
(and what have you got to spare?)
Pass the hat for your credit's sake,
and pay - pay - pay!*

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Assassinating Sarah

PETER NICHOLS

The Duchess of York's former confidant, Allan Starkie, says he has nothing to feel guilty or ashamed about. Interview by Noreen Taylor

Shame, betrayal!" Allan Starkie gasps at the very idea of such allegations. The author of *Fergie: Her Secret Life* smiles reassuringly. "I have nothing to feel guilty or ashamed about. Sarah always meant me to be her biographer. She even faxed me entries from her diary. My

book has such an unforgiving light on their mother's life.

However, we should allow Starkie to continue.

"What you have to understand is that the Royal Family live in isolation, surrounded by unworldly sycophants. They are removed from reality."

But surely Sarah had parents from outside such circles?

"Oh, her mother lives too far

away and anyway she thinks of her like an elder sister. As

for her father, she felt she

could not trust him."

So all she had was Allan Starkie!

"Sure, I was an authentic person. After all, Prince Charles has his group of advisers. Diana never managed to gather such a group, although she used to attend sessions with John and I, where we would help her rehearse meetings with Prince Charles during divorce discussions. John would play the Prince of Wales so she could act out her lines. Those were mock trials to prepare her for the divorce."

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'Now I know why women complain'

The Scardinos have a very modern marriage. In a week when some write in defence of wife-beating, it is a relief to meet Albert Scardino, a husband who says, laughing: "I can't imagine anyone I'd rather be beaten by than my wife."

Marjorie Scardino, the "fire-cracker" chief executive of *The Economist*, is to take over the Pearson Group on January 1 and so become the first female chief of an FTSE 100 company. But who gets the children up in the morning and off to school? Albert, of course. He is "the principal domestic carer" since Mrs Scardino's rise to the top of the corporate heap.

The Scardinos are hardly alone as a couple where the wife is the bigger breadwinner. The Queen is one; Cherie Blair another. As Albert says, if you know two examples of anything it's a coincidence, but if you know three it's a trend. We could call it name 20 such happy hang-up-free partnerships.

Albert, in his sharp suit, does not look like a househusband. He shows off their strikingly neat apartment carved out of an octagonal turret five floors above the streaming traffic of the Old Brompton Road. "It's a New York apartment in the middle of the busiest street in the country." It had long lain empty until the Scardinos walked through the door. Everything is gleaming white, marble or parquet, straight out of an Executive Lifestyle feature.

Eight windows give 360-degree views: sunset over the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Virgin Mary atop Brompton Oratory. "She's the only person who can see in," Albert says, "so we try not to offend her." He serves coffee on a tray with white linen napkins.

They met in 1971 in West Virginia in the bureau of Associated Press. He was 22; she was 23 and his editor. She read his first story and said: "Whoever told you you knew how to write?" I thought, this is going to be an interesting relationship. But Marjorie was Marjorie." They embarked on a life of madcap adventures, no hint of a future in corporate management. They paddled a boat down the Cherokee Indians' river trail from North Carolina. They took up shrimping on the Georgia coast. "Those shrimps cost us 50 dollars a pound. It would have been cheaper to buy the shrimps from the supermarket."

As graduate students in California in the last hippy years, they wrote their own wedding service and married in a park in matching Mexican-style wedding dresses.

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



Scardinos left town, by now with three children, owing \$250,000 and it was only last year, a decade later, that they finally paid off all their creditors. "We cracked a bottle of champagne to celebrate being worth nothing."

But Marjorie showed commendable organisation even in childbearing. She would go into labour on a Friday, leave hospital on Saturday, leave hospital on Sunday, and be back at her desk in the office on Monday. "We used to say: 'Marjorie, this is not the cottonfields. You don't have to drop the baby in the field and keep ploughing.'"

With the aid of an excellent nanny — "Professionals who look after your children are not like people who sweep your hall" — they moved to Manhattan. While Marjorie ran *The Economist* in New York with conspicuous success, Albert's career took a dive. He left *The New York Times* to be Mayor Dinkins's press secretary and "irritated the life out of the New York City press corps; I was arrogant and impudent. After

phones rang at once, each for a different son. Callers hear a patriotic *Home on the Range* if one line is busy.) "I now recognise what women used to complain about, back in the Sixties. That our society places value only on earning power, not on the vital support structure that allows someone to go out and earn."

Marjorie's last salary from *The Economist*, with bonuses, was £495,000. "I'm very proud of her. We've got more than I ever expected to earn as a reporter. Maybe I wouldn't enjoy it so much if I had to be a trophy husband. But I can participate in Marjorie's life by having endless, stimulating discussions and it makes me feel part of her life."

After leaving the Scardino apartment I turned on the television news and saw Albert (a seasoned Clinton campaigner) alongside Robin Renwick, our erstwhile Ambassador in Washington, discussing the presidential election result. Albert was laughing off the low voting turnout. "People who follow the news obsessively are dangerous. They turn into terrorists, lobbyists or journalists."

Marjorie is a night owl — "the later it gets, the faster her motor runs"; Albert fades out by 11pm. But it obviously works. What they share is that dry Southern humour: Marjorie has carried on her predecessor David Gordon's tradition of injecting *The Economist* with quirky *bons mots* and jokes, even in the annual accounts. "It's obvious to everyone," says Gordon, "that they are each other's best friend. They laugh together all the time."



Albert Scardino and, inset, his wife Marjorie: "It's obvious to everyone that they are each other's best friend"

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BBC

Philip Howard



■ It takes a particular kind of bottom to be a grandee

So Kenneth Baker has been elected a grandee. This is now official. It must be true, because when he and Douglas Hurd attack the Government's policy of mandatory minimum sentences for repeat offenders, the headline-writers choose "grandee" as the blanket term to cover such unlikely bedfellows. So how does one qualify for the nickname of "grandee"?

The Tory grandees last paraded in force as signatories to a letter to the press just before the Conservative Party conference, timed to pepper the Europhobes. They included the Lords Whitelaw (the captain grandee), Carrington and Howe, Douglas Hurd and Leon Brittan. Which is the odd one out there? Sir Leon, stupid. For power and a grand lifestyle do not in themselves make a grandee. As a European Commissioner, Sir Leon has more of both advantages than the rest. But as an active player in politics, especially Brussels politics, he does not qualify.

Grandees should be of a certain age and refined from the hurly-burly of active politics. Tufton Buttons and other senior backbenchers (knights from the shires) were once grandee material, especially if they could change out of their tweeds to become "men in grey suits". However, Steve Norris, the former Transport Minister, is a senior backbencher. But he could never become a grandee. Apart from his indiscreet social life, he leads the *Garage* tendency among Tory MPs, and so is debauched by vestigial social snobbery. On the other hand, Julian Critchley, who discovered the *Garage* tendency, has many grandee qualities, including a bottom of good sense and a generous nature that does not take politics too seriously. But he is still not quite a grandee. He is too witty.

You to not have to be socially grand to be a grandee. Kenneth Baker is an admirable example of a self-made man who has made it to grandee without ancestral acres or the Old Etonian network. But it is significant that an undisputed grandee, Douglas Hurd, when campaigning for the Tory leadership, felt it necessary to emphasise that his ancestral acres were rented and that he went to Eton merely as a poor King's Scholar.

It is not necessary to be stupid to become a grandee. Douglas Hurd is clever. But cleverness is not a sufficient quality. Enoch Powell is too clever by half and not enough of a team player. David Mellor is clever and successful as a media pundit. But like Steve Norris he is too undignified to be promoted. Age helps to create a grandee, but it is not sufficient. Ted Heath has been *Father of the House* for ages, but he is still too partisan in his engagement in current politics. Grandees should at least give the appearance of being above the strife and soundbites. They should look as though they believe in *noblesse oblige* and gent-like qualities.

Can you have a Labour grandee? Lords Callaghan and Healey, like Ted Heath, still retain too much of their ancient rancour. Could a grandee be female? The gender of the word makes this a grammatical impossibility. And the Queen is too grand, and Baroness Thatcher still too wrapped up in old ideology.

The grandee started life as a Spanish or Portuguese nobleman of the highest rank, a Don of Doms with Princes of the blood royal up his family tree, and provinces obedient to his crown. He should be as proud as Lucifer, and as generous as Roderigo El Cid, preferably not played by Charlton Heston. Like the *junta*, it is a useful Spanish term that we have adapted to our native politics. Like all such grandee titles, it is silly.

In his *Outline of History*, H.G. Wells lamented that we did not know the name of any human being until about 50 centuries ago. The extravagant titles and nicknames we have invented since then to butter up (or put down) the high and mighty are evidence of the vanity of grandeeism. King of Kings, the Sublime Porte, the All Highest. His Holiness — what we are talking about here is poor old forked radishes like the rest of us. "Grandees" will no doubt soon become a cliché and a laughing-stock, and so die of shame. And we will have to invent some other sobriquet for the rascals. But meanwhile the image of Kenneth Baker and Douglas Hurd in suits and doublets and hose as painted by Velázquez is charming. And grandee is useful shorthand for a headline.

Well now, Timothy Ley went off every

Writing in *The Times* last month, the Prime Minister defended the Government's policy of wait-and-see on European monetary union. Britain must have its say on issues that will inevitably affect us, whether in or out, and the facts are not yet known. One of the great unknowns about which Mr Major warned us was the "stability pact" to submit national budgets to constraints imposed by Brussels and Frankfurt. Yet when he wrote, the broad lines of the pact had already been agreed by the European Council of economic and finance ministers, including our own Chancellor of the Exchequer, at their September meeting in Dublin. And within two weeks of his article, the Brussels Commission produced proposals to turn that political agreement into law.

The stability pact is no longer unknown to the Euro-elite, but it certainly is to the British public and the British Parliament — even, for all one knows, to the British Cabinet. It is unknown to almost everyone whom John Major warned about the dangers of decision-making on Europe before the pact was unveiled. Of course, Kenneth Clarke himself never bothered, he tells us, to read the Maastricht treaty. Now that he is Chancellor, and acquiescing in European legislation himself, why should he expect any of his Cabinet colleagues to take their duty to the British people any more seriously?

Yet as the former French Defence Minister, Jean-Pierre Chevénement, pointed out in a powerful article last week in *Le Figaro*, the stability pact represents a new assault on national parliamentary sovereignty, almost on a par with the Maastricht treaty. Next Monday it will be top of the agenda at the finance ministers' meeting. Final decisions are imminent, so it is crucially important for Britain to understand what is involved, despite our leaders' reluctance to tell us.

For countries in a monetary union, the fiscal constraints on governments, stability pact or no, will inevitably be far tighter than anything that would be financially necessary outside. Thus the influential Institute of Fiscal Studies says that a British budget deficit keeping the debt ratio stable would be perfectly respectable and sustainable in financial terms. The institute is right — if Britain stays outside monetary union. But inside, a different logic will take over.

No longer able to guarantee debt repayments, because no longer in control of the currency in which debts are contracted, a government that is part of a monetary union will have to balance its budget. Over the summer, Eurosceptic Labour MPs calculated that in British terms, the difference between budgetary austerity requirements inside or outside a monetary union will be £18 billion (equivalent to a startling 12 per cent of current government spending, excluding interest and social security) — and this takes no account of the mind-boggling cost to the British purse of bailing out imprudent continental pension systems.

But Germany does not trust its "partners" to do what monetary union would require of them. It insists on legal rules, to enable Brussels to profit politically from the financial disaster of monetary union. The stability pact that will soon be passed into law gives the EU the right to impose fines on monetary union members whose budget deficit in stage 3 is deemed excessive by Brussels. The country concerned will not even have the right to vote on its own fate, it will simply stand in the dock before its "partners". The fines can be massive — more than £3.5 billion a year in the British case.

Even worse, stage 3 members will

have to commit themselves — via so-called "stability programmes" to be vetted by Brussels — to achieving budget balance or surpluses. And these programmes will have to contain "auto-correction" provisions for combating departures from them. According to a little-noticed Commission document issued last month, even countries that stay out of stage 3 will be legally obliged to submit "reinforced convergence programmes" which, though lacking explicit sanctions, otherwise mimic the stability programmes of the participants. These convergence programmes will then be submitted to the Commission, the Monetary Committee of EU

treasury and central bank officials, and to the finance ministers' council. In short, Brussels and Frankfurt, not national parliaments, will have the final word on what governments should or should not do in spending and taxation.

Mr Clarke could not block the legislation on convergence programmes even if he had a Damascene conversion to Euro-scepticism. Qualified majority voting will apply. But he could block the stability pact before next month's EU summit in Dublin. If he did, he might well scupper the whole monetary union project, since Germany is insisting on the pact as a precondition for stage 3. That would produce a great sigh of relief, not only in Britain but throughout Europe. Only the federalists and bureaucrats would be dismayed.

But Mr Clarke, federalist that he is, will not veto the stability pact. That, of course, is why the Government is unwilling to come clean on the stakes involved. Block the pact, and monetary union may not happen. Let it go through, and a further irrevocable step will have been taken towards the federal superstate that the Government says it abhors. Mr Clarke's vote on the pact in the finance ministers' council will be the most important act by a British minister, at home or abroad, since the Government bullied Parliament into accepting the Maastricht treaty.

At least there was public discussion, however inadequate, of that treaty. At least there were votes, however shamefully rigged, in Parliament. This time there may not even be a debate in Cabinet. Yet once Mr Clarke has cast his vote in the council, neither sucking him nor turning out the Government will make any difference. It will be too late. So, is John Major going to use Britain's "seat at the negotiating table" or not? Will he write another article in *The Times*, explaining what instructions the Cabinet will give the Chancellor about the line to take in the council? Or is party unity so precious to him that he will give Kenneth Clarke a free hand to sign away Britain's future? If he does that, he will find that a plea of "Lord, I didn't know" will serve him naught on the political Day of Judgment.

The author is an economist. He was dismissed earlier this year by the European Commission after publishing his book *The Rotten Heart of Europe* (Faber).

Bernard Connolly says if the Chancellor agrees to the stability pact, he will have taken a big step towards a federal superstate



When a conscientious man like Timothy Ley loses his job, he loses his pride — and so begins a tragic tale

The redundant clerk who wouldn't go quietly

Morning — no doubt after giving his wife the happy usual morning kiss — and rain and shine, shine and rain, he went to his office to do his work, no doubt perfectly. *He did this exactly the same for years on end*; off he went, his briefcase swinging, with that briefcase full of files. Nor was he the kind of man who, after doing the same job for many years, wanted to hang his head on the wall; no, Timothy Ley was quite content to go on with the same work until retirement, a couple of dozen years away. There are many such people in this reasonably calm land; I could not live like that, and many others could not either, but there are certainly many who not only do the work dutifully, but enjoy doing it. Timothy Ley, it seems, was just such a man. At least, he seemed just such a man. But that man's seeming turned out to be something very different, something extraordinarily, something incredibly different.

Because, one day, without telling anyone what he was going to do, Timothy Ley took a flammable liquid, and poured it over himself, and then struck a match. And so complete was the burning of his body that he could only be recognised from dental records.

What can be said? Nothing, of course. We are entirely bewildered, indeed we cannot understand anything at all. Suicide, and a specially dreadful kind of suicide, would be unimaginable for Timothy Ley. But he did it, with our warning and without any kind of reason — or at least any reason that any reasonable person could discover. And death shall have no dominion.

Well, there was — is — an answer. An

answer, that is, for a placid, honest, decent man called Timothy Ley. But for the rest of us, if your head is still spinning with horror, the answer is more terrible than the match he struck.

Timothy Ley had lost his job. No, it was not for any kind of wrongdoing — Timothy Ley lived and died a respectable, honourable man, who would not pick up a penny from the pavement unless he was certain that it was his own.

Correction: he goes home, but he does not tell his wife the bad news. And he does not tell his wife the bad news for unless he was certain that it was his own.

But how, you ask? Take a deep breath. For two years, two years, that poor devil, that heroic devil, that pitiable devil, that incredible devil, that great and unique devil, left his home at the exact time as he had always done in those years (no doubt never forgetting to kiss his wife) and stayed away from his home until, swinging his briefcase — that briefcase that had held so many files — it was time to return ...

There are many aspects to this almost unbelievable but true story. For one thing, what did he do when he left his home to kick his heels for about six hours five days a week? Let his wife answer.

He told me in August that he was starting a new job with an insurance company and would be going on a training course. Until then I had no reason to suspect anything other than that he was employed by the Inland Revenue. He insisted that all the paperwork would come through after he had been working there a month.

That won't do, surely. Where did he remain all through the hundreds and hundreds of hours? Where did he sit, where did he stand, where did he eat or drink for hours and hours and hours? It is likely that, when he began this terrible march to oblivion, he wavered and thought he would own up (though God Almighty himself would have told him that he had nothing to own up to), but there comes a moment when the coin is spun and comes down heads or tails, but alas, not both.

Pride. We all have it, one way or another. But to pretend that a man is working at his desk five days a week, when he is not working at all, and indeed is doing nothing at all, would surely kill a man. And indeed it did kill him. I repeat — that pitiful man was not being sacked for laziness or stealing or incompetence. He was being sacked because and only because the Inland Revenue had had orders to cut the number of the employees. And Timothy Ley picked the short straw.

Very well, he did. Pride, we are told, goes before a fall. But in this case the pride went after the fall. And not only did that pride refuse to follow: it stood like a ramrod. For two granite years he stood, and he ended his life by himself.

But we are missing the point, the terrible, dreadful point. A man, bowed down with the pride he should have abandoned long ago, decided that he would give up the heroic and pitiful waste of life. And so he lit a match and gave himself to the flames. If that is pride — and it is — let us pray, and pray for mercy, for humanity.

This infinitely tragic story has no simple answer, and indeed hardly any kind of answer. The very heart of it cries out to say there is nothing to say. There is a grieving widow and there are two grown-up offspring and a tombstone. Not enough. Not enough.

Alive, he is not vital overmuch: Dying, not mortal overmuch; Nor sad, nor proud; Nor curious at all. He cannot tell Old men's plaudits from his.

All the lines I have quoted are from Wilfred Owen. Did I not tell you that I would start and finish with poetry?

Casted d'Aiano. He has a withered right arm, after an enemy shell exploded as he was leading his men to storm a German machine gun nest. It blew away most of his right arm and injured his spine. "The only thing I've got left is my head," remarked the trouper when he came round.

Latest diversion on the Moscow and St Petersburg cocktail circuit is dried dogfood, used instead of rarely-found peanuts and pistachios to soak up vodka. Pedigree Chum, purveyors of sustenance to labradors and spaniels, doesn't export to Russia, but *coaxies* a black market may exist. "The people will come to no harm; all Pedigree products are fit for human consumption," whines a dogbreeder.

Real Windsor. STRAIGHT from the streets of Newcastle comes a riposte to the aristocratic models — Stella Tennant, Honor Fraser, Iris Palmer — currently representing Britain on the catwalks. She is the delightful Jayne Windsor, 22, mother of two children whom she refers to as her "bairns", and with a boyfriend on the manual side of construction (scaffolding and brickwork). An agency brought her down to London and provided a home.

After making a profound impression at the London shows, she is being lined up for a series of lucrative advertising jobs. We look forward to more of this new, merito-critic face of British fashion.



P.H.S.

Oh phooey!

PLANS for Luciano Pavarotti to sing at a concert to celebrate the handing over of Hong Kong to the Chinese are foiling. The Chinese, it seems, simply do not get the point of Fat Lucy.

According to reports in the Italian opera press, Pavarotti had been approached to sing at the joint Anglo-Chinese concert while on tour in the Far East with New

York's Metropolitan Opera. A few bars of *Nessun Dorma* were felt, by the European side at least, to be just the thing to herald in a new era of furious, Chinese-run enterprise. Then Pavarotti stated his price: somewhere in the £500,000 bracket.

"Noh goh," said the Chinese. He may have the girth of a hibernating panda, but could he really be worth

that much? For all his chin-wobbling, his kind of singing is worlds apart from the Chinese form of opera.

Pavarotti's New York agents could not comment on the size of his fee nor on the extent of his commitment. The Chinese, however, are rapidly losing interest, and are threatening to withdraw their invitation. Those who will be in the colony for the handing over, including Baroness Thatcher and the Queen, may now have to settle for all-in karaoke instead.

First sitting

FANCY financial footwork by the Duke of Richmond and Gordon has landed Sotheby's with a problem: he has bought the star lot of next week's English furniture sale. The lot, two 18th-century chairs made for the 2nd Duke's Richmond home, is the cover illustration and is described over six pages in the sale catalogue.

A couple of centuries ago, the family gave the chairs to Chichester City Council, which recently decided to sell them to pay for refurbishment. Lord March, the duke's son, stepped in and offered £120,000, the top estimate. "It is ex-

ceptional that the cover lot is withdrawn before the sale," comments Sotheby's, which has no plans to pulp its catalogue.

Village politics

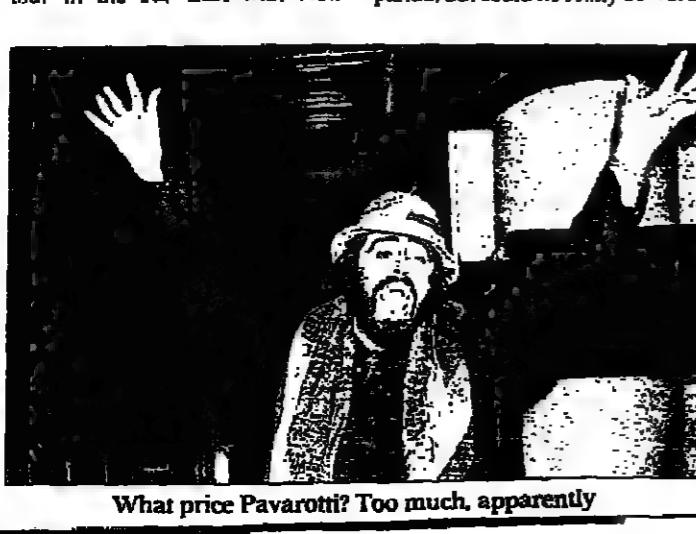
CONSOLATION for Bob Dole from the small town in Italy where he was wounded during the war. Castel d'Aiano, a close-knit community in the Apennines, has written to the defeated Republican asking him to become its mayor.

"We were all rooting for him in the election," says Pietro degli Espositi, leader of the community. "If he would like to come to be our mayor, we would welcome him.

Black mark

I'M DELIGHTED that the world has caught up with my long-established concern for Tony Blair's hair — or the lack of it — first mentioned in this column nearly a year ago.

I most now draw your attention to Peter Mandelson, gay spin-doctor, socialist and Labour MP. Dole has painful memories of



What price Pavarotti? Too much, apparently

JP 31-11-96 L.S.



Jayne Windsor's answer to the fashion chick



AFFIRMATIVE REACTION

Californians revolt against racial and sexual quotas

As Americans went to the polls on Tuesday, they made decisions on more than the presidency and Congress. The citizens of California, where the state constitution permits the widespread use of referendums, also passed Proposition 209, the prohibition against discrimination or preferential treatment on grounds of gender or race.

This measure prevents the state government from deploying racial or sexual criteria in hiring employees, awarding contracts, or admission to higher education. Although a prior judicial ruling prevented the words "affirmative action" being placed on the ballot, the target was clear. Not only did the proposal pass by a clear 54 to 46 per cent margin, but a majority of women and respectable proportions of California's ethnic minorities apparently voted in favour.

The issue, indeed the very definition, of affirmative action has long been controversial in California and across the United States. From the late 1960s, numerous initiatives were taken that tried to increase opportunities for particular disadvantaged groups. While the objective of such programmes was to help those who had historically been discriminated against, for example by offering educational scholarships to bright but poor black children, they were supported by Americans of all backgrounds. During the 1970s, however, extra encouragement was judged no longer enough. The aim became specific numerical "goals", especially on the number of black students entering university. A system of barely concealed quotas emerged so that a fixed percentage of state government jobs, business, and studentships was reserved on racial grounds, regardless of competence, cost, or scores in admissions tests.

This so-called "positive discrimination" was theoretically declared unconstitutional in a particularly incoherent Supreme Court decision — the Bakke case — some 18 years ago. In practice, many institutions ignored the illegality of their actions and carried on anyway. Ironically, law schools have been among the worst offenders. One in New Mexico created separate admissions committees and different pass rates based purely

on race, until a persistent federal judge finally prohibited the procedure. In California, the practice was endemic, especially in higher education, with its worst effects not on whites but Asian Americans.

Not surprisingly, many Americans have become increasingly angry. They believe that noble intentions have been perverted by political correctness. Their displeasure has fed through to the political system. Last year, Governor Pete Wilson of California forced his state university system to abandon its overt use of quotas. The Supreme Court in *Adarand Construction Inc versus Pena* declared that such techniques were only allowed as a remedy to precise and proven examples of initial discrimination, and even then should not require rigid numerical targets. President Clinton was obliged to review the practices of the federal Government, although with characteristic flexibility he declared his intention to "mend not end" affirmative action.

Now Californians have had their say. The result will reverberate well beyond the Golden State. California's referendums have long had the habit of influencing other jurisdictions. The revolt against high taxation and the drive to limit the terms in office of politicians were both launched from the Pacific Coast. Other local lawmakers will note the trend and change their ways; if they do not, their voters will do it for them. Both President and Congress will have to address the question again. The days of positive discrimination are numbered. As elements of this practice seem also to have crossed the Atlantic, it is a change that the British should be interested in too.

There is no evidence that Californians want to abandon the disadvantaged. All efforts to produce equality of opportunity remain wildly popular. It is the crude attempt to fix an outcome rather than respect open competition that is so vilified. Proposition 209 accurately reflects the values of the Declaration of Independence and the American Constitution. Quotas do not. The 1996 election may not have altered the composition of America's political leaders. This ballot will profoundly affect their agenda.

GUTS AND GLOIRE

French rhetoric is no help for Zaire's children

Behind the diplomatic language and announcements of closer naval co-operation, sharp words will be exchanged today at the Anglo-French summit. The issue is Zaire, and the quarrel is over the French proposal for an international intervention force. Britain has been notably quiet over President Chirac's call on Tuesday for a multilateral mission to guarantee safe passage for the refugees caught up in the fighting in eastern Zaire. But such reticence says more about the need to create a good atmosphere for today's talks than about the Government's real reaction. The French proposal, as almost every official in Britain believes, is ill-conceived, impractical and designed more to boost the faltering position of France in Africa than to address the underlying causes of the fighting.

Britain is the only other European country that could give such a mission credibility. As the only two powers with Armed Forces ready to intervene overseas, Britain and France could constitute a nucleus of a force. Britain's reluctance has infuriated Paris. Hervé de Charette has accused the international community of being spineless: an accusation as foolish as it is transparent.

The obvious objection to the French plan is that such a force has no clear mandate. France should know from Bosnia how foolish it is to rush in troops on the assumption that "something must be done" before they know what they can or need to do. Every military mission needs proper tasks and attainable goals. A mission to the heart of Africa, in the absence of a ceasefire and without definition, is bound to end in recrimination. Caught in the crossfire of tribal conflict, it will provide neither short-

term safety to the refugees, nor a long-term solution to the disintegration of Zaire's despotic regime.

The second clear fault in the plan is that it does not hasten the return of the Rwandan refugees to their country. The cynicism of Hutu extremist leaders, vividly described by our correspondent on the scene today, has repeatedly been denounced by aid agencies, which have refused to enter the camps in eastern Zaire because of intimidation by those responsible for the 1994 Rwanda genocide. On at least two occasions there was a chance, after Zaire-Rwanda agreement, to persuade the refugees to return; United Nations delay wasted the opportunity.

Zairean resentment at the refugee burden grew, the extremists' control was strengthened and the fires of new tribal conflict were stoked. The French plan would simply send the refugees deeper into Zaire.

The plan would also harden suspicion in Africa that once again Paris is protecting the guilty, the Hutu extremists and the corrupt officials of President Mobutu's tottering Government. While the corrupt dictator languishes in his Riviera villa, such suspicions would be hard to dispel.

France's humanitarian motives are not in doubt; but its record in propping up dubious African regimes that support France's quasi-colonial role in the continent is too poor to hope for any sudden change. The Americans see the dispatch of troops as a last resort. But like the British, they too believe that regional forces should be part of a regional solution and that any such intervention must have United Nations sanction. This is not spinelessness; it will achieve more than guts and gloire.

MANIFESTO PROMISES

Politicians owe Mrs Lawrence prompt action and more thought

Jaw-Jaw is often better than Law-Law. A parliamentary nation should generally value considered debate more than precipitate action. Nevertheless, there should be a welcome for the response of Michael Howard to the campaign against combat knives launched by Frances Lawrence in *The Times*. A clear, and growing, evil has been addressed with the urgency it deserved. The death of Philip Lawrence alerted the nation to the disturbing prevalence of battlefield blades in the hands of the alienated young. His widow's manifesto goaded politicians to act and the package of measures unveiled should go some way towards making the streets safer.

The extension of stop-and-search powers to tackle those individuals who, by dress, manner and association are likely to be carrying offensive weapons should be of direct practical benefit to the police. It will not prevent the isolated maniac or determined criminal from carrying a knife; but it should give the young drawn to the shallow machismo of gang culture pause for thought. In too many of Britain's urban areas young men mimic the tribal affiliations of American cities and organise themselves into groups defined by dress and

flourish. The knowledge that such behaviour will attract increased police attention, and heavy penalties should act as some deterrent.

This effect should be maximised by the public campaign planned to stress the penalties for carrying offensive weapons and an effort in schools to emphasise the futility of thus asserting one's power. If Learo Chindamo had recognised where membership of his "Triad" gang would take him then Philip Lawrence might still be inspiring another generation of schoolchildren in north London.

Some politicians, although driven by genuine outrage, were insufficiently careful in their calls for legislation. Opposition attempts to introduce a Bill simply to "ban" combat knives appeared the most obvious way of tackling the violence against which Mrs Lawrence campaigned. But, simple slogans obscured measures that, while less seductive, may be more effective.

The difficulty of defining a combat knife, like the problems attendant on any return of corporal punishment, means agitation for such action is an aid to response to real need. Other moves may be necessary in time. But the Home Secretary's plans are a

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Don't blame it all on the children

From the Chair of the National Children's Bureau and others

Sir, We are deeply alarmed at the current attitudes to disruptive pupils reflected in the media and in public pronouncements by politicians. Some newspapers and both main political parties appear to be in competition to demonstrate who can be tougher with children who can trump the others' punitive proposals.

The naming of particular children whose behaviour is problematic is unhelpful. To the traumas they have often experienced at home, and sometimes at school, is added the humiliation of widespread publicity. This must be counter-productive, sometimes even creating heroes where this is least appropriate.

It is well established that affection, care and disciplinary approaches based on reward rather than punishment are the most effective ways to ensure good behaviour and relationships. In the words of Lord Elton's 1989 committee of inquiry into school discipline:

Our impression is that, in schools with a negative atmosphere, pupils learn to see themselves as irresponsible beings who must be contained and controlled at all times. Our evidence suggests that pupils tend to live up, or down, to teachers' expectations.

There are many positive school initiatives which encourage children's sense of responsibility. These include pupils' involvement in "whole school" behaviour codes, anti-bullying strategies and school councils, constructive home school liaison and courses in personal and social skills.

Approaches such as these should be publicised, applauded and developed, as should the work of many schools, situated in deprived inner-city areas, in which the atmosphere is settled, exclusions rarely occur and achievement is promoted. Certainly, because of their behaviour, some children do need extra resources. Can we afford not to provide them?

We condemn the current climate of hostility to children and young people. If something is wrong, the fault is not with them but with the adults with us. If we demonise children, we shall surely only create demons.

Yours faithfully,

PHILIP GRAHAM, Chair, National Children's Bureau; SONIA JACKSON, Chair, Children in Wales; R. E. KENDELL, President, Royal College of Psychiatrists; R. J. LEWIS, President, Association of Directors of Social Services; ROY MEADOW, President, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health; PETER MORTIMORE, Director, Institute of Education, University of London; HEATHER DU QUESNAY, President, Society of Education Officers, National Children's Bureau, 8 Wakley Street, EC1. November 5.

School discipline

From Mr Nicholas Bennett

Sir, The law regarding what teachers can do to restrain unruly pupils is very uncertain (letters, November 5). Most teachers are afraid to tackle such pupils for fear of prosecution for assault if a pupil decides to march out of the classroom or the school, many teachers dare not physically prevent them.

Even in cases where a teacher has to intervene to stop one pupil attacking another there is a danger that the assailant or his parents may take out a prosecution against the teacher.

The Government should look again at the legal position and if necessary amend the current Education Bill to ensure that teachers, acting reasonably, can use sufficient force, if necessary, to restrain the small minority of out-of-control pupils.

Yours faithfully,

NICHOLAS BENNETT, Conservative prospective parliamentary candidate for Reading West, 86 Tilehurst Road, Reading, Berkshire. November 5.

From Miss E. M. Manners

Sir, Before my first headship in 1959, I was deputy head of a very large co-educational school in a tough part of south Yorkshire. Corporal punishment was used on the boys but not on the girls, whose discipline was my pride.

The boys did not complain of this discrimination, but the girls did. The worst that could happen to the lads, they said, was six of the best from the Boss, whereas the lasses had to face an interview with Her Who Must Be Obeded — a much more daunting prospect.

Yours faithfully,

ELIZABETH MANNERS, 6 Graham Court, Hamilton Gardens, Felixstowe, Suffolk. November 7.

Sport letters, page 43

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number —

Millennium dome plans under fire

From Lady Panufnik

Other projected millennium follies

include ten hideous concrete obelisk "markers" along one of the most beautiful stretches of the Thames, between Kew and Hampton Court. I dread to think what further *idées de grandeur* and mindless extravagance will be foisted onto the nation by the Millennium Commission to make us happy about the arrival of the year 2000.

The £500 million is not toy money pledged to castles in the air (or even to Ferris wheels); it is real money, with real power to further the sciences, the arts and education.

Yours faithfully,

CAMILLA PANUFNIK, Riverside House, Riverside, Twickenham, Middlesex. November 4.

From Mr J. S. F. Parker

Sir, Three hundred cheers for Richard Morrison and his article today.

Before all the millennial nonsense gets completely out of hand, would it not be a good thing if those responsible were asked to explain exactly what it is that they suppose they'll be celebrating?

Yours faithfully,

JOHN PARKER, 8 Holly Terrace, York. November 2.

From Mr D. A. Rew, FRCS

Sir, Professors Sir Keith Peters and Frank Harris are to be commended for their robust support of pay equivalence in academic medicine (letter, October 30). However, this issue is only one of the reasons why the universities are unable to recruit and retain top-class clinicians to develop the nation's medical-research base.

The unspoken reality of NHS consultant practice is that in many parts of the country, and particularly in the surgical specialties, NHS consultants can and do earn several multiples of their basic NHS salary in private practice.

The somewhat puritanical, restrictive and nationally inconsistent approach by the universities to the issue of private practice is the major disincentive to the recruitment of talented young consultants into academic surgery, notwithstanding the intellectual and professional rewards of academic success.

It is within the remit of the universities themselves to strike a sensible balance between incentive and reward. Those universities which do not do so will deservedly witness a continuing drain of talent and will fail to recruit the individuals necessary to sustain

the academic development into the 21st century.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID REW, Senior Lecturer in Surgery, University of Leicester, Faculty of Medicine, The Glenfield Hospital, Glenfield Road, Leicester.

From Dr Peter Beck

Sir, The cogent pragmatic argument presented by Professors Peters and Harris can also be supported from a moral or ethical standpoint, namely fairness.

As an NHS consultant myself, I believe that we share the clinical load in our teaching hospitals equally with the academics. We all do the same ward-rounds, outpatient clinics and on-call duties, as well as sharing the teaching commitments, and a differential pay structure for this parity of workload would offend against natural justice. The policy cannot, I believe, be supported from either a moral or practical stance, and it should be changed at once.

Yours faithfully,

PETER BECK, Consultant physician, Llandough Hospital, Penlan Road, Penarth, South Glamorgan. November 4.

From Mrs P. H. Tull

Sir, Do teachers really need David Shaw to tell them how to dress? Most head teachers I know would have a "quiet word" with anyone not correctly dressed.

Perhaps, however, Mr Shaw or any aspiring fashion student could suggest a suitable fabric from which infant teachers' smart clothes could be made. This fabric would have to withstand a daily wash to remove all or any of the following: paint, glue, sticky fingerprints, milk, gravy, sick, blood, felt-tip pen marks, clay and the ever-present smell of school disinfectant.

It should also be warm enough for days when the boiler breaks down.

Yours, in a not too shabby jumper and skirt,

PAM TULL, Infant school teacher, 1966-93, 10 Careys Cottage, Brockenhurst, Hampshire. November 4.

From Mr N. J. F. Smalldridge

Sir, Dr Cresswell's letter (October 30) suggests that legalising drugs and making them freely available would benefit society and reduce drug-related problems. These drugs can cause significant physical and psychological harm even in their pure form.

The harmful effects of hard drugs (opiates, amphetamines, cocaine) are already well known and research is increasingly demonstrating that the so-called soft drugs (cannabis, Ecstasy) are also harmful. Governments make their use illegal to protect their citizens.

I have no doubt that making these drugs freely available would increase their use and the harm caused to individuals. The present illegality acts as a deterrent to some and the expense as a deterrent to others. Removing these barriers would result in more experienced users.

Yours faithfully,

N. J. F. SMALLDRIDGE, Edward Myers Unit, City General Hospital, Stoke on Trent ST4 6QG. November 1.

From Mr Robert Wilton

Sir, Your Diary today ("Tory history") reports that Foreign Office "history buffs" are recommending that the Tories invoke the glories of the first Elizabethan age to kindle satisfaction with our own.

What are Foreign Office officials, supposedly impartial, anonymous civil servants, whom one could imagine have quite enough to be getting on with in the crises at present facing the globe, doing coming up with election gambits for the Government?

And secondly, before Central Office ran off 10,000 "New Labour, New Arrows" posters, they might remember that the late stage of the previous Elizabethan reign was marked by economic and political stagnation, and the increasing isolation of the fast-declining leadership from the mass of the population.

There were parties in the street as

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT WILTON, 67 St Peter's Street, NI. November 5.

From Mr John A. Heywood

Sir, If the Foreign Office really believes, as your Diary reports, that Elizabethan England continued until the end of the 17th century thank goodness their specialist subject is geography.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN A. HEYWOOD, 21 Walpole Street, SW3. November 4.

From Mr Andrew Jackson

Sir, A Tory official has told us (report, November 7) that Mr Major's "full head of hair stands up and is counted in its own right".

NEWS

Holiday firms face monopoly query

■ Thomson and Airtours, Britain's largest holiday companies, were yesterday referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission as part of an investigation of the entire travel industry that could initiate a wide-ranging shake-up.

The investigation will examine the ownership by a few companies of their own tour operators, travel agencies and airlines to see if they use their dominance of the industry to control supply and fix prices

Page 1

Britain rebuffs French action over Zaire

■ Britain refused to entertain a French plan for a military expedition to northern Zaire and Rwanda where fighting between Tutsis and Hutus is threatening to become a humanitarian disaster. The Prime Minister is to discuss the crisis with President Chirac today

Page 14, 15

Pensions fraud

A British Embassy accountant stole hundreds of thousands of pounds by claiming the pensions of colonial and military staff. Elias Zureik, a Jordanian, set up an elaborate fraud

Page 1

Brown's business past

Gordon Brown's parents were astonished to learn that the Shadow Chancellor had cited their highly-powered business careers to offset claims that he lacked entrepreneurial experience

Page 1

Major attacks France

John Major delivered a surprising broadside against the French economy as he flew for a meeting with President Chirac to spell out Britain's demands for the future of the European Union

Page 2

Pensioner jailed

A pensioner who shot and wounded three abusive young day-trippers disturbing the peace of his country cottage was jailed for two years

Page 3

Back to school

Schools and fashion are stirring up back problems for children, say osteopaths, worried about bags loaded with books, sports kit, and other lumber

Page 5

BA luggage bill

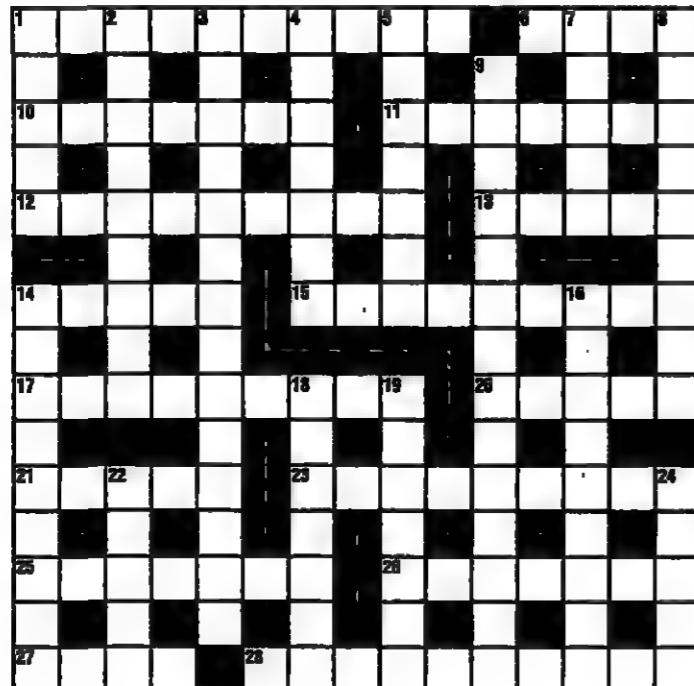
The cost to British Airways of compensating passengers who 'lost' their luggage for up to two days is expected to reach tens of thousands of pounds

Page 7

Personalised silks a racing certainty

■ The British Horseracing Board is betting that the equine equivalent of personalised number plates will prove a winner with owners. Three sets of plain racing silks, never available before, are to be auctioned by Sotheby's for up to £30,000 each. Plain silks are considered more desirable than decorated versions, partly because of their exclusivity

Page 1

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,320**ACROSS**

- 1 So-called relative expected to take the pledge (10).
- 6 Tax second home in the country (4).
- 10 Knock back uncooked food in battle (7).
- 11 Delinquent chimney needs a cow in front (7).
- 12 Where men with conviction took steps to create revolution (9).
- 13 Hit cricket ball into crowd (5).
- 14 Bronzed line of men in battalion (5).
- 15 E.g. Hilary's conclusion about when delivery is due (3,2,4).
- 17 Having put up for election, is opposed (9).
- 20 Once a grotesquely huge amount (5).
- 21 It makes a contribution to clear the ground (5).
- 23 Where, finally, to fight terminal depression (4,5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,319

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TRAPPINGS USUAGE
I M B N L N P N
TAPEZ ELIA BEAT
B I C R N M S U
OVERDRAY GLAMOUR
U X A D L A S
REPOSES PLASTICS
G E S E E P A
ETCH TAPEZ RECAP
O T I F I O L I
IRISH ROCKPLANT
S N E E A O R A
G R E A T A N D S M A L L

Times Two Crossword, page 48

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

London: Highest day temperature, 15C (68F); lowest, 10C (50F); highest rainfall, 30mm (1.2in); highest rainfall: Croydon, Glynneath, 0.75in; highest sunshine: Bournemouth and Luton, 8in, 7hr

Edinburgh: Highest day temperature, 14C (57F); lowest, 10C (50F); highest rainfall, 25mm (1in); highest rainfall: Edinburgh, 0.75in; highest sunshine: Bournemouth and Luton, 8in, 7hr

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INSIDE
SECTION
2
TODAY



ECONOMY

Robin Marris on
UK's role in
European welfare
PAGE 29

EDUCATION

Can home/school
contracts end
bad behaviour?
PAGES 34, 35

SPORT

Tuigamala steps
into breach for
Western Samoa
PAGES 41-48

TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
46-47

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8 1996

Costain
future in
doubt on
freezing
of shares

By ERIC REUTTER

THE future of Costain was in the balance last night after the ailing construction and engineering group suspended dealings in its shares.

The suspension, the second this year, came as the shares were trading unchanged at 46p, giving the company, the industry's fallen star, a market value of only £95 million. Costain said that the suspension was pending news of its "continuing asset disposal process and subsequent financial arrangements".

No details were available and even Costain's brokers said that they had been given no hint about the pending announcement, which will probably be made this morning after a board meeting.

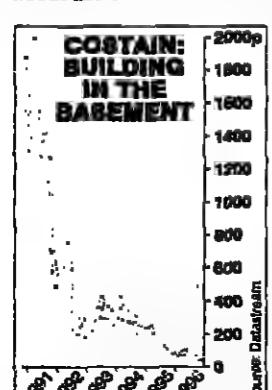
One analyst said it is possible that Costain, given its track record, will say that no buyer has been found for its coal business. He said the collapse of the company could not be ruled out, though the probability was thought to be small because of a financing earlier this year.

The coal business, with a book value of about £50 million, has been for sale for some time. Its disposal was considered crucial to securing the heavily indebted company's long-term financial health.

Costain disappointed shareholders in July when it disclosed that a deal to sell the coal business to Lonrho had fallen apart at the last minute. Only three days earlier, Costain had said that an agreement had been reached. An analyst said: "They could have sold the coal division two or three times in the past, but they always backed off because they thought they could get a better price."

Costain seemed to be on firmer footing in the spring when it raised £74 million through a rescue package that gave a 40 per cent equity stake to a new Malaysian investor. However, the group was soon hit by construction delays on the Newbury bypass and lack of new contracts. As a result, it reported a £19.2 million interim loss (loss of £10.4 million, previously).

At the time, Alan Lovell, chief executive, said that Costain was "feeling good about life".



Discouter opts for reductions as profits plunge in face of competition

Kwik Save to close stores and cut staff

By NOEL FUNG

KWIK SAVE GROUP is to close 107 stores and shed 1,900 staff after a widely expected 46p, giving the company, the industry's fallen star, a market value of only £95 million. Costain said that the suspension was pending news of its "continuing asset disposal process and subsequent financial arrangements".

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Bowler: initiatives

Mr Bowler said: "Despite the profit decline, we maintained our dividend payout because we have a strong cashflow and balance sheet. That also showed our confidence in the new strategy."

The strategy, dubbed New Generation Kwik Save, was the result of the £4 million consultancy work by Arthur Andersen commissioned earlier this year to rescue the group from sagging profit and shrinking market share. Although the review introduces widespread changes to the group, retail analysts showed reservations over its effectiveness in fending off competition and enhancing profits.

The review will trim the

group's store total from 979 to 872 over the next year and cut 1,900 jobs from its 23,000 staff. Scotland tops the list with 25 closures, followed by the South East and London.

Mr Bowler said the group has been talking to the unions and was confident that the group could take in 90 per cent of the staff affected. "With the high attrition and staff turnover rate, we should be able to relocate about 90 per cent of the people within our group."

The total cost of the restructuring is £105.5 million, with £87.5 million included as an exceptional item last year and a further £18 million spread over the next two years. Projected capital expenditure for next year is £50 million, rising to £100 million the year after.

The group reckoned that the investment could be recouped in three to five years' time.

Lawrence Sugarman, analyst at Kleinwort Benson, said: "In terms of future, there is a lot of hope, but little in terms of concrete evidence. I am not convinced that this is the mark for the company's turnaround." But in view of shedding the loss-making operations and the investment in upgrading services, he adjusted the profit forecast for next year upwards from £75 million to £85 million.

Paul Smidt, Credit Lyonnais Laing analyst, said the shake-up was a high-risk venture that incurred high overhead costs. He reduced his profit forecast from £74 million to £61 million. "It is trying to emulate the supermarket leaders," he said.

Kwik Save maintained its market share of 8.3 per cent last year, with nine million customer transactions a week, making it the fifth-largest retail chain in the country.

Other initiatives include broadening the ranges in chilled and convenience food, health and beauty, making fresh foods a priority and giving stores a face-lift to make

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□ Holiday firms fall out over OFT □ Kwik Save tries to engineer a recovery □ Shedding light on Limelight

□ If you think the brochures you pick up from travel agents are economical with the truth, you should hear what a couple of the holiday companies were saying about the Office of Fair Trading's decision yesterday. Perhaps we should put it down to shock, because no one had expected the matter to go to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

It is hard to reconcile the versions of events given by Airtours and by Thomson Holidays, while the OFT is maintaining a suitable silence over the confidential negotiations that led to its decision. The vertical integration gained by putting together those businesses providing package holidays and the high street shops that sell them has long been attacked by small operators, who claim their product is either denied shelf space at such shops or priced less attractively than their own product because the shops demand too high a margin to sell it. Their complaints are understandable; the integration would never have taken place if it did not offer some competitive advantage.

We had all assumed that the OFT would cobble together a set of undertakings from Thomson and Airtours, the market leaders with 32 and 20 per cent between

them, a sort of code of practice for the holiday industry, and then impose it on the other two similarly integrated businesses. In this way a reference to the MMC could be avoided, along with much uncertainty all round.

The 12 per cent fall in Airtours' share price looks an overreaction, but the year-long inquiry could be nasty for the industry, as the MMC could even require the shops to be sold. The OFT has looked at this issue twice before, when Airtours bought Pickfords in 1992 and Hogg Robinson a year later, and cleared both deals. The reference now is a tacit acceptance that this was the wrong decision.

Airtours was happy to accept the required undertakings but Thomson was not — probably because they appear to have been a completely different set for each company. Airtours was asked to make sure customers knew of the common ownership between the product they were buying and the shop they bought it in — they are already told quite explicitly — and to promise not to

use its clout to fix prices. Thomson's interpretation of these undertakings was the virtual creation of a holiday industry regulator, a veritable Ofhol, fixing prices and setting almost all the terms under which the companies are allowed to contract with their suppliers.

Yet the OFT says the undertakings put to each were identical. The answer is in the interpretation: Thomson was unwilling to accept any interference, and so took the bleakest possible view. It is now up to the MMC to sort it out.

Old problems for New Generation

□ NEW GENERATION has a half ring to it, sounding like a 1970s light entertainment dance troupe, so it is an entirely suitable name for the relaunch of Britain's naffest food retailer, Kwik Save Group. This is probably the company's last chance to extricate itself from the corner into which it has been forced.

PENNINGTON



Kwik Save is wedged between the foreign discount chains such as Aldi and Netto, providing the lowest prices around and a zero-frills service even if their market share is still small, and the supermarkets intruding onto its patch with their own attractive if selective discounts. Profits last year, before one-offs, fell 28 per cent, and margins were down 0.1 per cent.

The usual management consultants were hired, and the options identified thus: take on the foreign discounters; become a chain of convenience stores, although this would have meant the closure of many more outlets than the 10 per cent identified

yesterday; take on the supermarkets, by fielding a range of own-label products, while keeping prices for known brands low.

The decision has been the latter course, arguably the most difficult. Kwik Save has asked its shoppers what they want, and they have come up with an expensive wish list. A range of three brands — a well-known one, an own label in the middle and a very cheap substitute. Plus a wider range of fresh produce, and convenience foods for the less budget-conscious. All this is already available at big supermarkets, and Kwik Save's difficulty will be to distinguish what it is offering from what these rivals offer. The only way it can be done is on price, which means slimmer margins.

The City was dubious about Kwik Save's chances of success, even if a maintained dividend helped the share price to rise.

The required improvements to stores will have to be funded from profits along the way. Some problems may be beyond the help of even the cleverest

management consultant. The shares have halved over the past year, but this seems little reason to scramble for them.

To buy or not to buy

□ NEXT week's £175 million flotation of Limelight Group is like Hamlet without the Prince. Stephen Boler, the Cheshire Svengali who built up the business, sold it to ADT and bought it back again, is taking a back seat in the company and cashing in two thirds of his chips.

Mr Boler wants to concentrate on other business interests, such as game parks in the Kalahari desert and Manchester City football club. Had he not decided to go quietly, merchant bankers N M Rothschild might well have had to push him.

Having made his first fortune selling an exhaust company to Kwik Fit, Mr Boler moved into furniture with a business called Kitchen Queen, bought from the ailing Maben Group in 1980.

Within a few months Kitchen Queen and its sister company, Wharf Mill, were in the hands of the receivers. As this was a long time ago, and Mr Boler is only a non-executive director of Limelight, there is no mention of these failures in the prospectus.

No mention is made either of the troubles of the Limelight business Maben, only saved from receivership in 1985 by Kean & Scott, a business which also bought Mr Boler's Kitchens Direct for £22 million. Kean & Scott became part of Michael Ashcroft's ADT, until Mr Ashcroft became bored of it and sold it back to Mr Boler for a song in 1989.

Meanwhile Mr Boler was having fun with another company, Advanced Technology Industries, which he and his partners sold to the Poundstretcher group, Brown & Jackson, in a deal that was terminated after B&J had paid £8.8 million. Mr Boler bought the business back for £500,000.

Whether Mr Boler's absence from centre stage will be a plus or a minus for Limelight is hard to assess. What is clear is that Mr Boler has become exceedingly wealthy while those who enter into deals with him tend to lose out. As he is selling shares, do you want to be buying them?

All-round growth gives Burton 54% increase

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

BURTON GROUP profits rose 54 per cent last year, with all its divisions, from Debenhams to Top Shop, delivering increased earnings.

The company yesterday reported that in the year to August 31, it made a pre-tax profit of £15.6 million (£9.6 million). Sales from ongoing business were up 7 per cent to £2 billion. In the first nine weeks of the current year, trading has been encouraging, with sales up 8 per cent.

Burton Menswear returned to profit for the first time in three years, bringing in £3.3 million compared with a loss of £4.2 million a year ago.

According to John Hoerner, chief executive: "It hasn't moved as fast as we would have liked. It is in a very tough competitive situation. Burton Menswear had become a very pretty bad and a lot of customers did too."

The group is set to increase total space at Debenhams by 20 per cent over the next four years. It has opened two new stores, in Lincoln and Dublin, in the past week and has six new openings planned, with contracts on nine further sites being finalised.

Mr Hoerner said the launch of Burton into home shopping

"We are approaching this

in the next two years should involve all its brands. The group has bought Innovations and Racing Green, the home shopping specialists, in the past year and has set up a division to prepare for the launch of its own brands."

He said he expected the home shopping business "to support itself (financially) as we go in. I would be surprised if the decision to do this has any material effect on profits for the next three years. Then it will be positive". The company was moving into home shopping to ensure longer-term growth, he said.

The dividend for the full year has been raised 27 per cent to 2.8p per share on the back of a 50 per cent boost in earnings per share to 7.8p. The final dividend, of 1.65p, up 38 per cent, will be paid on February 21.

Tempus, page 28

Ann Street cheered by 27% growth

ANN Street Brewery reported a 27 per cent increase in half-year profits, to £4.3 million, despite facing a mixed trading environment in its Channel Islands and French drinks operations (Alasdair Murray writes).

Turnover rose 17 per cent, to £46 million. The company added that trading in the UK and Channel Islands was still mixed in the second half, while sales in France were being hurt by a fall in demand for soft drinks, in line with the rest of the French soft drinks industry.

The interim dividend was increased 20 per cent to 6p, payable on December 16. The shares closed down 3p at 81.5p.

Boots confident of a recovery for Do It All

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

BOOTS expects Do It All, its loss-making DIY business, to have positive cashflow next year and to go into profit once it has disposed of all its poorly performing stores, Lord Blyth, chief executive, said yesterday.

Boots bought out WH Smith, its joint venture partner, in June and has since disposed of 11 Do It All stores. More disposals are being negotiated.

Lord Blyth said he was "pretty confident we can make this business work". He added: "Whether in the very long run Do It All is a business where we can continue to add value, we'll see." But he said that there were no current plans to dispose of the business.

The Boots group made a

profit of £239.2 million in the half year ended September 30, a rise of 9.4 per cent. Do It All cut its loss to £3.7 million compared with £9.6 million a year ago.

Like-for-like sales at Do It All increased 6 per cent on a like-for-like basis. At Boots the Chemist they were up 4.6 per cent; at Halfords, up 3.2 per cent; at Boots Opticians, up 6.1 per cent; and at AG Stanley, up 9 per cent.

Lord Blyth said: "We are encouraged by the general improvement in the retail trade ... We are confident of good season sales despite an increasingly competitive environment."

He said the recent Office of Fair Trading decision — to ask

the courts to reconsider whether resale price maintenance on over-the-counter medicines should continue — was disappointing. He said he "believes that RPM should remain in force because consumer interests are best served by retaining the service to local communities currently provided by pharmacists". But he insisted that, whatever is finally decided, "Boots the Chemist is well placed. Past experience suggests that the business would emerge with increased market share".

Earnings per share were up 13.1 per cent to 17.3p and the interim dividend has been lifted 8.8 per cent to 6.2p.

Tempus, page 28

ASIA PACIFIC REGION

China
Indonesia
New Zealand

As we expand in the region of
the future, you can be confident
in the commitments we make.

*Go ahead
you can rely on us*



After achieving a controlling interest in National Mutual — the second largest life insurer in Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong — we are now operating in 23 countries. This broad reach, international experience and shared 'know-how' benefits clients in all our markets. That's one reason why we are confident when we say: "Go ahead. You can rely on us."



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68

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Shares cling to 3,900 level after difficult session

THE London stock market was clinging desperately to the 3,900 level last night after another difficult session that saw both equities and government securities experience further sharp falls.

Early attempts by investors to join in the overnight celebrations on Wall Street that greeted President Clinton's success at the polls proved short-lived. Instead, investors again focused on Wednesday's call by the Bank of England for another rise in interest rates, just a week after the first rise for two years.

The FTSE 100 index reversed an opening rise of 17 points and continued to lose ground throughout the session. It closed just above its low for the day with a fall of 35.3 points at 3,900.4. A total of 803 million shares changed hands.

East Midlands Electricity fell 15p to 592½ p after claiming it would reject any offer made by Dominion Resources, the US group, at 608p. Dominion was forced to disclose an interest in bidding after East Midlands' share price moved sharply higher in late trading on Wednesday.

Northern Electric fell 7p to 623p after CE Electric topped up its holding in the company with the purchase of an extra 6.5 million shares at 630p. It lifts the American power generator's stake to 19.93 per cent. Northern has rejected the terms of a bid valuing it at £667 million.

Compass Group fell 20p to 598p as a large line of stock went through the market. SBC Warburg placed a line of 12 million shares at 593p with various institutional clients.

Kwik Save, the food retailer, rebounded 17½ p to 321½ p in response to the proposed closure of 107 stores and the loss of 1,000 jobs. The restructuring is expected to cost in the region of £300 million. The move coincided with a 30 per cent drop in profits. Some brokers viewed the closures as a positive step, but are convinced that the group's problems remain deep seated.

Burton firmed just 1p to 145½ p after coming in with full-year profits in line with brokers' forecasts. At the pre-tax level they were up from £98.6 million to £151.6 million, with brokers looking for £190 million for the current year.

Elsewhere in the stores sector, Boots dropped 10p to 611p after reporting a useful in-



Nicola Foulston saw Brands Hatch Leisure move ahead

crease in profits during the first six months. But the group's performance did not impress everyone and SBC Warburg, the broker, has reduced its recommendation from a "buy" to a "hold".

News of an unsolicited bid approach lifted Great Western Resources 4p to 17½ p. The group has received an approach worth 18p a share

moved quickly into top gear on its stock market debut with the shares opening at 172½ p after a placing of 6.3 million shares at 157p. The shares eventually settled at 171½ p, a premium of 20½ p. This will come as good news to Nicola Foulston, who took on the role of chief executive after the death of her father. At this level the group is valued at

Jarvis, which last year bought the Northern Infrastructure Maintenance Division of British Rail, raced up 62p at 126p with both ABN Amro Hoare Govett and Peet Hunt reckoned to be bidding for stock. Brokers say a new deal may be close. But there is also talk of a bid at around 180p a share.

from an American company. Shares of Costain, the debt-laden construction group, were suspended at 46p. The company said that it had called for the halt to trading pending an announcement regarding its asset disposal process and subsequent financial arrangements. The market has been awaiting news about the sale of its US coal interests.

Brands Hatch Leisure

about £36 million, with the placing raising an estimated £9.3 million. The money will be used to reduce bank borrowings and to fund for further expansion.

On the Alternative Investment Market trading got under way in shares of Beaumont, the business services group, after a placing at 3p. The shares opened at 4p, a premium of 1p. Mayflower

improved trading news lifted J Bibby 7p to 144p. Yates Brothers 25p to 38p. AG Holdings 5½ p to 151½ p. Stavely Industries 1p to 205½ p. and Warner Howard 3½ p to 283½ p.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Wednesday's call for a further rise in interest rates continued to hang over the bond market like a cloud, with losses stretching to 1½ at the longer end. Sentiment was further damped by speculation that US securities houses had suffered major losses in the market in the past few weeks.

In the futures pit, the December series of the Long Gilt fell 1½ to 103½ during another day of heavy trading.

In long Treasury 8 per cent 2021, lost 1½ to 100½, while at the short end, Treasury 7 per cent 2001 fell 1½ to 99½.

□ **NEW YORK:** US stocks hovered nearly unchanged in early trading. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 2.98 points to 6,180.69.

Source: DPA

□ **AIRTOURS: SHARES HIT TURBULENCE**

Source: DPA

□ **LONDON METAL EXCHANGE**

Source: DPA

□ **LIFFE OPTIONS**

Source: DPA

□ **EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS**

Source: DPA

□ **GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS**

Source: DPA

□ **STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES**

Source: DPA

□ **STOCK MARKET**

Source: DPA

□ **INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION**

Source: DPA

□ **COMMODITIES**

Source: DPA

□ **FOREX**

Source: DPA

□ **GOVERNMENT BOND YIELDS**

Source: DPA

□ **INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION**

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Burton
THE
CITY
DIARY

A joke
too far

STAFF at Schroders lit up in horror on Wednesday as their boss took to the floor at the AUTIF annual dinner. Clive "Bawdy" Boothman, Schroders managing director and AUTIF chairman, almost put guests at Grosvenor House off their food, in his lame attempt to raise a laugh.

Where has Boothman been hiding since the days when Bernard Manning was referred to as a comedian? Diners were surprised to hear him say: "They've invented a new toy called the *Gazza Walkman*. One battery, and it still plays."

Middleton sells

PETER MIDDLETON waved goodbye to Chelsea Football Club and Yorkshire in the same week. The chief executive officer at Salomon Brothers International has sold the house that he bought with his first wife on the edge of the North Yorkshire Moors National Park. Neighbours in the village of Lastingham commented on the neglected Honda 250 in the drive, and the lonely house that they nicknamed the *Marie Celeste*. The School House was put on the market a few months ago at about £160,000.

Up and up

DAME Pauline Neville-Jones has done it again — this is her second promotion since she followed in the footsteps of Douglas Hurd and joined NatWest Markets in February. From managing director to global head of business strategy only six months later, Dame Pauline was yesterday announced chairman of NM First. As a former political director and Deputy Under-Secretary of State with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and a stint as senior adviser to Carl Bildt, the special negotiator in former Yugoslavia, she is continuing to build on her colourful career.



"Nothing but work, work, work!"

Kilsby for BZW

THE Kilsby couple have much to celebrate after the announcement yesterday that Mrs has been appointed managing director of BZW's corporate finance division. Fresh from the Bankers Trust, American-born Susan has built up a considerable reputation as adviser to companies in the consumer products sector. Her husband, Richard, the high-tech detective at the Stock Exchange put her name in the gossip columns when he bid £300 at the Big Bang party for a collection of commemorative plates that he then gave to her as a last-minute birthday present.

Out with a bang

PETER MINCHIN'S retirement party after 20 years in City regulation went with a bang. After a weighty Enforcement Committee meeting on Tuesday, the former chairman and scourge of City brokers was treated to a farewell lunch. As it was Guy Fawkes Day, the SFA chief decorated the cake with sparklers. Unfortunately, the fire alarm went off and the building had to be evacuated.

MORAG PRESTON

Europe's welfare depends on Britain joining EMU

If the UK
wanted to join
monetary
union, it
would be
allowed to

A year ago I wrote two articles in these columns discussing the problems of the "Anglo-Saxon" underclass. They resulted in a short book published yesterday, in which I have aimed to deepen the research and expand the scope of the discussion. In particular I have expanded the scope to include Western Europe.

Today I want to think about the underclass and the forthcoming election.

My basic thesis is that over the past quarter century a significant minority of the general population, in which whites are as strongly represented as blacks, has missed out on education, and now in consequence does very badly economically. In the US, the main result is low wages; in the UK, both low wages and "non-employment". Both in the US and the UK, at least a third of working-age males who have only a basic education (no GCSEs in the UK, no high-school diploma in the US) are non-employed — either officially unemployed or statistically lost. They survive somehow doing this and that, including drug-dealing and crime. And in both countries, over the whole length of the quarter century, real hourly earnings at the bottom end of the wage distribution have stagnated or actually declined.

In my book I have elaborated the idea that what we are seeing is a perversion of meritocracy. In opening up the education system we create a new elite of brains, leaving the less able out on a limb. Why has the economic system in recent years moved yet further against people who happen to be born into below-average abilities, aspirations or "merit"?

The answers suggested by the research of British and US scholars are manifold. Two of the most widely discussed are technology and trade. New technology has increased the productivity of the "overclass" and disadvantaged the underclass. Increased exports of industrial goods from the Third World have effectively increased the global supply of less-skilled workers, reducing their market in the First World.

To these widely researched phenomena I add another that consider to be overriding — inadequate domestic long-term economic growth. By this mean the long-term growth of macro capacity to produce goods and employ labour has not kept up with the growth of effective labour supply.

Much discussion fails to understand this process. There is a confusion between total growth and productivity growth. Society will benefit from productivity gains if total output and demand for labour also grow. Otherwise, as the Luddites saw, productivity growth, by releasing labour, merely increases the labour surplus. In addition, in the past half century, the labour supply has been massively enhanced by women. In the US the proportion of married women with children under six who

A year ago it seemed that the

UK general election would be dominated by EMU on the one hand, and the economy on the other. After the Labour conference, however, these items were seemingly replaced by education. In the past two weeks a whole new raft of issues has dramatically surfaced — morals and morality, crime and punishment and discipline, rather than education as such, in schools. But at the heart of all these problems is that of the underclass. Watching TV shots outside The Ridings School, see the faces of the underclass's next recruits. And among moderate Europeans there are real worries that EMU, as currently designed, will increase, rather than reduce, such problems.

There are in fact two answers. The first is that in continental countries, most especially in Germany, the education system does a better job of steering people who are less academically gifted than training for productive and rewarding employment.

The second is that the strong and widely criticised European welfare state has held up bottom-end living standards. For example,

the purchasing power of bottom-end hourly earnings in old West Germany is today at least twice the corresponding statistic for the US. The other side of the coin is higher European non-employment, a larger proportion of which (because of easier benefit rules) appears as official unemployment. Which model, the "European" or the "Atlantic", do we prefer?

A year ago it seemed that the

Ridings School will contribute to the underclass

found paid employment outside the home went up from ten per cent to 60 per cent.

Consequently, in no First World country except Japan has the long-term demand for labour kept pace with the heavy increase in effective supply. What I have found in my book, however, is a major difference between the social consequences in Anglo-Saxons and those in Western Europe. In Europe the effects, rather than concentrated on an underclass, are spread through the male population. The general increase in male non-employment has on average been markedly sharper in France, Germany and Italy than in Britain and the US. What is the reason for this divergence?

There are in fact two answers. The first is that in continental countries, most especially in Germany, the education system does a better job of steering people who are less academically gifted than training for productive and rewarding employment.

The second is that the strong and widely criticised European welfare state has held up bottom-end living standards. For example, the purchasing power of bottom-end hourly earnings in old West Germany is today at least twice the corresponding statistic for the US. The other side of the coin is higher European non-employment, a larger proportion of which (because of easier benefit rules) appears as official unemployment. Which model, the "European" or the "Atlantic", do we prefer?

A year ago it seemed that the

Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, partly I think from conviction, and partly from fear of the markets, have made clear that they believe education, not economic growth, lies at the heart of contemporary social maladies. But Labour's education programme is structurally vague. Is there a plan to follow the German "selective" model? And how can this be done quickly, rather than over 100 years? I have a fear that the Labour Party leaders may be using education partly as a diversion from macroeconomics. One is bound to some extent to sympathise. If they say they will try to improve the real economy, the banking fraternity is liable to label them as crazy inflationists who will cause a run on the pound.

A year ago it seemed that the

Cook highlighted changes Nothing of that kind happens when one pronounces the mantra: "education, education and education".

The question mark over EMU has grave consequences. A definite decision has got to be made. I happen to hold the view that, properly designed, EMU could be a noble project of huge benefit to all Europeans. But as we all know, it has not been properly designed. The fault lies not so much in the Maastricht criteria as such, but in the signals that they give. Most especially, the institutions who will manage the new currency are given no brief on the economic issues that really matter.

What then should Britain do?

To my mind there is no doubt.

What can be changed, however, as Robin Cook has been interestingly pointing out, is the way that member governments collectively operate it.

He has suggested that the political balance in European governments is currently changing in a better direction.

The European Central Bank will be operated by a council

consisting of individuals nominated by member governments.

There will be majority voting.

On present form, tip-toeing past the case of Britain, the first-phase membership will consist of every EU country except Greece and Italy. Italy, in fact, is not impossible far off meeting the entry conditions and since her Prime Minister strongly desires to be an early member, my guess is that he will, in the event succeed. As for

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Mayflower follows American route

By KEITH RODGERS

MAYFLOWER Corporation, the automotive company that failed in a bid for Pullman, the American car suspension group, this summer, has returned to the acquisition trail in the United States.

The UK company announced yesterday that it has agreed to buy SCSM Holdings, an American supplier of metal pressings and body sub-assemblies, for \$165 million.

The company plans to place 32.8 million shares at 126p each to raise £82.2 million net for the cash offer, with the balance coming from additional bank borrowings of \$80 million. The placing and open offer has been underwritten by BZW. Existing shares rose 5p to 143p yesterday, a new high for 1996.

The deal will leave Mayflower geared at about 80 per cent on net assets of approximately £100 million by the end of the year, although £73 million of goodwill has to be written off. The company surprised analysts when it indicated that it expected to be unearmarked by the end of 1998.

David Donnelly, finance director, said the acquisition of SCSM was "tight fit", combining Mayflower's design and engineering capabilities with SCSM's huge pressing capacity. After the deal — subject to shareholder approval at an EGM on December 2 — the company will have four American plants and US revenues will account for almost half of group turnover. Mr Donnelly indicated that there may be some rationalisation of administrative staff.

The deal, which is expected to be earnings enhancing in the first year, is the third major takeover move Mayflower has made in little over a year. In August 1995, it acquired Walter Alexander, the largest UK manufacturer of bus bodies. Four months ago, its £172 million offer for Pullman was trumped by a £200 million takeover bid from Tenneco.

Under the terms of the deal,

Mayflower will pay \$137.2 million for SCSM, and assume debt of \$27.8 million. It won control after Great Dane Holdings, SCSM's family-controlled parent company, put it up for auction.

Sandy Morris, analyst at Hoare Govett, said: "It looks like a more natural deal for them than Pullman." He added that if the company achieves its zero gearing target, "I think it would go down as being fairly phenomenal".

In a trading statement, Mayflower said that all businesses within the group continue to drive down costs and improve productivity.

SCSM, whose principal customers include General Motors and Freightliner, reported a £13.7 million operating profit on continuing operations last year, up from £11 million in 1994. Turnover climbed from £72.3 million to £106 million.

Mr Donnelly said the company was strongly cash-generative, which was why Mayflower is funding a large part of the deal through debt. By contrast, it had planned to fund the Pullman bid through £139 million rights issue.

Mayflower's contracts include a deal to make the body shell for Rover's MG sports car and the cab for the Ford Aeromax truck. Mr Donnelly said the company was still considering longer-term plans to move into complete car manufacture for low-volume, specialist vehicles.



John Simpson, Mayflower's chief executive, with a Mercedes off-roader. Half the body shell is produced by SCSM.

Elections boost J Bibby as £42m profit beats forecasts

By FRASER NELSON

INCREASED political certainty in Spain and Portugal has aided the recovery of J Bibby, the mini-conglomerate, which returned record year-end results yesterday.

The company, 75 per cent owned by South Africa's Barlow group, said that recent elections in the two countries had created more stable economic climates. Bibby also enhanced margins by raising prices and cutting costs —

including losing 80 of its 1,420 workforce in Spain.

The annual results beat expectations, and Bibby shares rose 7.5p to a four-year high of 144p yesterday. Richard Mansell-Jones, chairman, attributed the results to Bibby's new policy of concentrating on areas in which it has a commanding market share.

The capital equipment division led the profit advance, raising its operating profits

from £9.2 million to £14.1 million. Its industrial division also saw significant growth. Profits from materials handling grew more slowly, up 7.5 per cent to £2.1 million.

In the year to September 28, pre-tax profits were £42.8 million, up from £32.9 million last year and losses of £10.7 million in 1994. Earnings per share were 16.93p (12.07p). A 5.5p final dividend, due on January 31, makes 7.5p (5.75p).

Cullen's knocked by competition

By CLARE STEWART

CULLEN'S, the upmarket convenience store group, yesterday gave warning that it may record a loss in the full year because of weaker trading in its high street stores together with the cost of expanding the group.

The announcement came as

impact of several unprofitable stores reverting from franchise to management control.

In addition, the food shops have come under greater pressure. "The high street has definitely increased competition with retailers such as Tesco Express extending their

trading hours," said Robert Rayne, Cullen's chairman.

He said the group was repositioning its stores "to build an emphasis on fresh food and food to go". The shops, he added, "need to be more accommodating to our core market".

Despite the tougher conditions faced by the stores, which are principally located in London, Mr Rayne said there was plenty more opportunity to expand the chain in the capital and outside.

Cullen's priority in the short term is to expand its patisserie chain. A fourth outlet will open next month in London and a further five are planned for 1997.

Cullen's is not paying an interim dividend. Its shares fell 2.5p to 18.4p.



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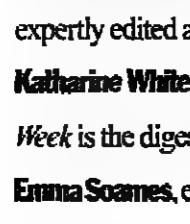
has become compulsory reading for everybody who is afraid of having missed something over the past seven days, which means all of us."



Alan Rusbridger, editor of *The Guardian*

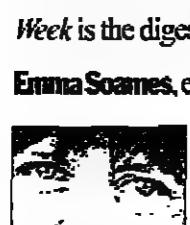
concurred, adding: "Brilliant concept. Brilliantly executed."

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53	50	47	Barbary (S)	58.0	11.0	51	170
54	51	48	Carling A	50.0	11.0	50	193
55	52	49	Carling B	52.0	11.0	52	193
56	53	50	Carling C	53.0	11.0	52	193
57	54	51	Carling D	54.0	11.0	54	193
58	55	52	Carling E	55.0	11.0	54	193
59	56	53	Carling F	56.0	11.0	54	193
60	57	54	Carling G	57.0	11.0	54	193
61	58	55	Carling H	58.0	11.0	54	193
62	59	56	Carling I	59.0	11.0	54	193
63	60	57	Carling J	60.0	11.0	54	193
64	61	58	Carling K	61.0	11.0	54	193
65	62	59	Carling L	62.0	11.0	54	193
66	63	60	Carling M	63.0	11.0	54	193
67	64	61	Carling N	64.0	11.0	54	193
68	65	62	Carling O	65.0	11.0	54	193
69	66	63	Carling P	66.0	11.0	54	193
70	67	64	Carling Q	67.0	11.0	54	193
71	68	65	Carling R	68.0	11.0	54	193
72	69	66	Carling S	69.0	11.0	54	193
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91	88	85	Carling LL	88.0	11.0	54	193
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118	115	112	Carling MLL	115.0	11.0	54	193
119	116	113	Carling NLL	116.0	11.0	54	193
120	117	114	Carling OLL	117.0	11.0	54	193
121	118	115	Carling PLL	118.0	11.0	54	193
122	119	116	Carling QLL	119.0	11.0	54	193
123	120	117	Carling RLL	120.0	11.0	54	193
124	121	118	Carling SLL	121.0	11.0	54	193
125	122	119	Carling TLL	122.0	11.0	54	193
126	123	120	Carling ULL	123.0	11.0	54	193
127	124	121	Carling VLL	124.0	11.0	54	193
128	125	122	Carling WLL	125.0	11.0	54	193
129	126	123	Carling XLL	126.0	11.0	54	193
130	127	124	Carling YLL	127.0	11.0	54	193
131	128	125	Carling ZLL	128.0	11.0	54	193
132	129	126	Carling AAL	129.0	11.0	54	193
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136	133	130	Carling EEL	133.0	11.0	54	193
137	134	131	Carling FFL	134.0	11.0	54	193
138	135	132	Carling GGL	135.0	11.0	54	193
139	136	133	Carling HHL	136.0	11.0	54	193
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154	151	148	Carling WLL	151.0	11.0	54	193
155	152	149	Carling XLL	152.0	11.0	54	193
156	153	150	Carling YLL	153.0	11.0	54	193
157	154	151					

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Shaftesbury pays £90m for right to revive Carnaby St

By CARL MORTISHED

CARNABY STREET has been sold to the owner of London's Chinatown. Shaftesbury, the property group specialising in West End tourist destinations, has agreed to pay £90 million for the 93 properties that make up the Carnaby Estate.

The deal is not yet sealed, but Wereldhave, the Dutch owner of the estate, will be more than pleased by the price on the table. Only two months ago, Wereldhave asked its agents to seek a buyer for the properties. Suitably armed with 1960s' memorabilia, Healey & Baker launched a campaign that drew heavily on fashion icons past but had a minimum price of only £69 million for the 40-plus lots.

In the end, the properties

fetched at least 30 per cent more, and rumour had it that bidders included big names such as Gerald Ronson, Scottish Life, the insurer, and Benchmark, the property company rejuvenated by a £100 million property deal with Friends Provident.

Shaftesbury is staying silent about the deal: some 90 property transfers must be signed before it is in the clear. It will also be talking to its shareholders. At least some of the purchase price will need to be raised in a share issue. After being tapped for money in July, institutional investors will want to be consulted. The Carnaby Street leases currently generate just under £6 million in rents, giving an initial

investment yield of only 6 per cent. The price might make a casual observer wonder whether Shaftesbury and its rivals are interested in collecting relics rather than rents.

Yet nothing could be farther from the truth. When fashion left Carnaby Street in the 1970s, the area sank rapidly into trading in T-shirts and tourist ephemera. However, within the past ten years, things have been changing in the West End. Rents have shot up in the restaurant and leisure locations of Chinatown and Soho, and the media and music industries are once again feeling prosperous and pushing beyond Wardour Street and Golden Square. Carnaby Street is not yet a trendy location, but, under Shaftesbury's tutelage, it has a better chance of making it.

Shaftesbury, a canny operator with a style based on maximum management but minimum intervention, has made a fortune from its traditional area of Gerrard Street and Shaftesbury Avenue. By working closely with Chinatown tenants, it has turned an unimpressive collection of buildings into a gold mine by increasing restaurant sizes while preserving the area's character.

Tim Sketchley, of Healey & Baker, reckons that Shaftesbury will gently move Carnaby Street upmarket, introducing new tenants. "One of the potentially important sectors is the music business," he said. "If you look at where it is, music, entertainment and leisure are possibilities."

Shaftesbury already owns some Carnaby Street properties, so there is scope for deals. The company is expanding south, too. In July, it raised £30 million to buy the Island site, next to the Trocadero at Piccadilly Circus, in a move that should see Chinatown's borders extended.

Tempas, page 28

Value of contract distributor halved

By MARTIN BARROW

SHARES of Applied Distribution fell 27p to 35p, almost halving the company's stock market value, after the contract distribution business said it would not pay a final dividend after a deterioration in trading in the second half.

Applied's stock market value was reduced by £9.67 million to £12.3 million as analysts took a dim view of the company's prospects. Earlier this year the shares traded as high as 19p.

Sir Hugh Bawell, chairman, said a number of factors were to blame for the downturn in trading since the half-year. These included pressure for additional service enhancements by a number of customers without sufficient compensating adjustments in charges and

unexpected additional costs associated with the scheduled expiry of some contracts.

Sir Hugh said that as a result of these problems the company was likely to break even in the second half, which ends December 31.

In spite of having promised to recommend a maintained final dividend of 4.5p as recently as August, the company considered it would no longer be appropriate to pay a final dividend. The interim dividend, paid on October 10, was held at 1.5p.

In 1995 Applied Distribution earned pre-tax profits of £5.1 million, rising from £4 million in the previous year. In the first half of the current year profits fell to £244,000 from £2.23 million.



Christopher Sporborg, left, with Nicholas Page, managing director, are pegging the payout

Hambro Insurance rises 50%

By ROBERT MILLER

HAMBRO Insurance Services has held the interim dividend at 1.85p a share despite a near 50 per cent jump in pre-tax profit to £4.53 million. The insurer, which will make the interim payout, worth £1.2 million in total, on December 18, said continuing competitive pressure on its Hambro Legal Protection division had resulted in a 17 per cent fall in profit to £2.1 million in the six months to September 30. Christopher Sporborg, chairman of Hambro, said that in future the legal insurance arm, which saw turnover rise 7 per cent to £11.8 million, would adopt the trading name of Hambro Assistance.

Elsewhere in the Hambro portfolio, Cunningham UK, the loss adjusting and claims company, improved its operating performance, while Cunningham International contributed £1 million to the group's bottom line. Beale Dohle, the market maker in second-hand traded endowment policies, recorded unchanged profits of £700,000 on a 44 per cent rise in turnover to £15.8 million.

Mr Sporborg said that Hambro, which saw earnings per share increase to 3.76p, against 2.75p in the same period last year, had benefited from last year's hurricanes.

Food and drink shortfall in inward investment

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

FOOD and drink manufacturing, one of the largest industries in the UK, has become more competitive but is failing to attract its share of inward investment due to poor transport infrastructure and a lack of skilled workers, according to a new report.

The Strathclyde University Food Project, set up six years ago by the food industry to help to boost sales and close Britain's trade gap with the rest of the world, holds its final seminar today.

Sir Alistair Grant, chairman of Safeway, the supermarket group, and of the project, will tell delegates that initiatives suggested by the project have helped the British food industry to add sales of at least £300 million. "Quantifying the financial impact of any reduction of the food and drink trade gap is far from straightforward, given such events as effective devaluation following exit from the ERM," he said.

Among the examples cited of companies helped by the project is Van Heyningen Brothers, the horticultural division of Hazelwood Foods, which has become the largest glasshouse grower in the world, producing 30,000 tonnes of tomatoes a year. This has helped to cut the import of Dutch tomatoes 30 per cent, the seminar will be told. Other companies have helped to cut Danish and Dutch bacon imports.

But the project's final report — the basis for today's seminar — says that high debt levels within the industry suggest that massive investment has not yet paid off in terms of productivity and production.

The UK has the third-largest food industry in the European Union, worth over £100 billion if catering is included. It employs more than three million people in primary production, manufacturing, retailing and distribution. But it is not growing as rapidly as its competitor

industries because pre-tax margins are low, reflecting intense competition. This has resulted in lower prices for the consumer.

Although British companies beat their European competitors in management of the supply chain, Britain is falling behind in attracting inward investment because of geography, poor transport and an unskilled labour force. The report suggests that offering more specialty and premium products would give the industry an added advantage.

It says that opportunities exist in high-value-added products such as confectionery, water, convenience products and certain vegetable and fruit production.

SBC sees profits up in 1996

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN ZURICH

SWISS BANK Corporation, Switzerland's third-biggest bank and owner of Britain's SBC Warburg merchant bank, said profit growth slowed in the third quarter but it still expected a higher ordinary net profit for 1996. The bank said: "SBC expects that ordinary group profit after taxes for the 1996 financial year will be some percentage points below original estimates, but still substantially higher than in 1995." In September SBC estimated that 1996 ordinary net profit would rise 33 per cent to SF1.4 billion (£651 million). SBC said net profit after taxes rose 27 per cent in the first nine months of 1996, but gave no figures.

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Would home-school contracts have saved The Ridings, asks Hugh Thompson



The village school in uproar: teachers say that contracts are of little use if parents themselves are of an antisocial nature

Can sign, won't sign

Labour sways them, the Governor encourages them, they're the latest big idea in the ongoing debate on school discipline. But would home-school contracts have had any impact at The Ridings or the other schools that have hit the headlines in recent weeks?

Neil Thornley, who faces the possibility of a teachers' strike over an allegedly unruly pupil, thinks not. The head of arts High in Bacup, Lancashire, says: "They would not be worse the paper they were printed on."

"They would patronise the 95 per cent who are already supportive and make no difference to the rest. I know it's against the union line, but I think written contracts would be a complete waste of time."

The contracts layout what the school expects of parents and pupils in terms of uniforms, attendance and behaviour and what they in turn can expect from the school. The aim is to bind the parents closer to the school and rule

out potential disagreements about who is responsible for what.

For Liz Paver, Head Teacher of Intake Primary school, Doncaster, the system works well. "We make all parents sign it every September and for the eight to ten-year-olds there is a weekly book monitoring progress we ask the parents to sign. It is a system that means nobody can hide."

"Since we introduced these contracts there have been fewer parents challenging teachers and there is more understanding of our system. It is important that the contract is established at primary school, because it gets parents into the right frame of mind."

But Mrs Paver, vice-president of the National Association of Head Teachers, may be in a minority. Many other heads share Mr Thornley's view. They say that when a parent accepts a place at a school, they have contractually accepted its rules and ethos as laid out in its prospectus.

Tony Williams, Head Teacher of

Sedgefield Community College, in Stockton-on-Tees, says: "A contract signed by every parent would be an unnecessary piece of bureaucracy. Those parents who most need a contract are either not going to take it seriously or are not going to bother to sign it."

John Kenwood, Head of Bourne Primary in Eastbourne, agrees: "It would be a nightmare trying to get 500 contracts signed and sealed every term."

Clapton High School, in east London, which took part in a contract of partnership project, sponsored by the Royal Society of Arts, has a non-binding agreement which is signed by everyone at the beginning of the pupil's career.

Maggie Hillson, head teacher, says:

"I am worried by any type of coercive element, that is why we called ours an agreement. It is most useful when there are problems and we can all start from the same position that we share the same expectations."

Others point out that contracts

are often used as part of the support and sanction mechanism when things start to go wrong. The contract is used to draw the parents and school together as part of the programme for stopping a pupil being excluded.

However, a report on the RSA project, which was presented to a conference in London this week, raised fears that the contract might be used purely as a weapon against parents. John Bastiani, the author of the report, described his view as one of "positive agnosticism", recognising the potential of contracts but wary of the variety of approaches and opposition.

Dr Bastiani said: "Home/school arrangements can, and should, provide a framework for a continuing discussion about what teachers, parents and pupils might reasonably expect from one another. In the hands of politicians, however, they are fast becoming a blunt instrument with which to beat unsuspecting parents into submission."

Most of the staff, the pupils and

Governors must share the blame for failing schools

A former head teacher recalls how she felt let down by her governing body

Some years ago I was summarily removed from my post as head teacher of a private school. As with the current case at Cheltenham, parents were informed only of the *faire accompli* and, when they pressed the governors, they were told that I had resigned and an implication was made that, in spite of the board's pleadings, I had walked out.

This arose from events at a confused and hysterical board meeting, but the clearest objective evidence that I was sacked comes from two facts. Before and after the event the discussion was not about resignation but about some allegations of misdemeanours on my part; and, in the eventual settlement, they paid me the precise sum of money which they were legally obliged to pay if they had dismissed me.

I do not complain about being sacked. They had every right to do that and by the time it happened we had definitely gone off one another. I do complain about their refusal to answer questions for weeks and that, when they were finally cornered, they misrepresented my part in the story.

There were many causes, but there were two main, closely related, factors. First, the governors' unwillingness to spend time on the school and their consequent ignorance about it and, secondly, the ruthless determination of a minority of the staff to hang on to a comfortable regime they had achieved years before at a time of teacher shortages.

The school was in a mess when I arrived, losing money and certain to lose large numbers of pupils because there were big groups at the top of the school, tiny ones at the bottom and almost no forward registrations. This had been made clear to me by the bursar and I assumed that the governors also knew it. Later I realised that they did not. I fully understood that my task was to clear it up.

The buildings were dangerous and insanitary and smoking and drinking were rife. Academic standards were so low that girls who had arrived with scholarships were failing their O levels and the sixth form was more effective in providing entry to the local social scene than entry to university. The senior staff had been there far too long and had not adapted to modern conditions.

The governors were mostly distinguished and experienced people, so why were they so inept? I think it was because they were ignorant about education, did not take their role at all seriously and

would not give enough time to it. Because they had no time they did not inform themselves about the school, about the problems as they arose and about the ringleaders of the staff rebellion. Far too late, I realised that they did not seem to understand even about the numbers.

None of this would matter much if it had happened only to me, or only to that school, or only occasionally. It would not even matter too much if it were only the independent schools. Good and influential as many of them are, they educate only a small proportion of our children and the really good ones have good governors. But we now see it happening in the mainstream sector.

Many governors feel vulnerable and it is not surprising that it is hard to persuade enough people to serve. But they are not really accountable. We have seen on television a group of governors walking out, having resigned from Manton School. No doubt they feel bruised and unfairly treated, but they have not lost their occupation or their livelihood.

In the panic raging now, many scapegoats have been offered — parents, the Government, local authorities, teachers, heads — almost everybody. What about the governors who, under the legislation, are almost in sole charge? Certainly we have heard about them making decisions on resigning, but I, at least, have not heard much discussion about who they are, how they are chosen and how much or how little they can or should do. It is often a thankless task.

I have to admit that it is hard to think of a satisfactory solution and, although legislation has been called for recently in these columns, and would surely be needed, I can't help also feeling that schools have had a lot of that lately, not always very well thought out, and I wince at the thought of more. But I am writing this because the first step towards reform must be exposure of how negligent, irresponsible and unjust boards of governors can be and how much harm they can do.

After all, even if parents have not invested large sums of money in their schools, they all invest long periods of their children's formative years.

• The author wishes to remain anonymous.

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APPOINTMENTS

SELWYN COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE Bursar

The College seeks to appoint a full-time Bursar from 1 October 1997, on the return of Dr M Paric to teaching and research in Economics. The Bursar is the principal administrative Fellow of the College responsible to the Governing Body for the College's finances, the non-academic staff, the maintenance of the buildings and estate, and the promotion of conference business. Salary will be in the range £23,000-£26,500 (under review).

Full details are available from the Master's Secretary, Selwyn College, Cambridge CB3 9DD (tel: 01223 335890; fax: 01223 335889). The closing date for applications is Friday, 6 December 1996.

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ON 21 OCTOBER 1996

THE COMPANY



■ POP 1

Oh dear! The promising Tricky takes a step backward with his new, pretentious disc



■ POP 2

Bally Sagoo deserves better reward for the exotic mix on his new album, *Rising from the East*



■ POP 3

Paunchy, balding and Australian, Dave Graney has all the qualities to be one of the great cult heroes



■ POP 4

... while the two sisters of Alisha's Attic conform all to a modish stereotype

What does it mean? That's a Tricky one

TRICKY
Pre-Millennium Tension
(Fourth & Broadway/
Island 524302)

Nowhere in the arts is the line between genius and nonsense more finely drawn than in popular music. Witness the strange progress of Tricky. Having created a twilight world of unfathomable mystery and infinite possibility with his beguiling debut album, *Maxinquaye*, the dark prince of trip hop has taken one small step in the wrong direction with *Pre-Millennium Tension*, and disappeared up his own muse.

The warning signs were clear enough when, in April, he quietly released an "extra-curricular" album under the vainglorious pseudonym of *Nearly God*. More monoto-

POP ALBUMS: David Sinclair
turns on, tunes in and drops off to some wild and crazy guises

nous than mind-bending, it suggested an artist drowning in a sea of increasingly self-centred preoccupations. *PMT* does little to redeem the situation. The eerie atmospheres and clanking rhythm loops are much as they were on *Maxinquaye* and just occasionally, as on *Makes Me Wanna Die*, when Martina Topley Bird gets a clear run at a vocal, there are sporadic flashes of the old magic. But for most of the time it is Tricky's distorted gurgle that

dominates, as he intones impenetrable snippets of mantra-like verse against a succession of haphazardly structured backing tracks. The result is muddled than a swamp.

"Look deep into my mongrel eyes, tell me what you see," he demands in a rare moment of lucidity, during the course of a bluesy ramble called *Tricky Kid*. The answer seems to be a man whose distinctive musical vision has become too clouded to make much sense any more.

ALISHA'S ATTIC
Alisha Rules The World
(Mercury 534 027)

WHILE all new acts, whether they admit it or not, are trying to establish an identity that fits the current bill, Alisha's Attic have concocted a formula that seems more contrived than most. Combining the kooky duo dynamic of Shakespeare's Sister with the tart delivery of Alanis Morissette, sisters Karen and Shellie Poole have produced a debut that fairly drips with modish pop tunes and a fashionably off-kilter attitude.

Produced by Dave Stewart, it is nevertheless a varied and engaging collection, which skips from the singalong chorus of *Alisha Rules the World* to the rooty hip hop rhythm of *The Golden Rule* without missing a beat. And although the lyrics are often given a rather trippy spin — "The galaxy is open, so paint me on your right hand" — they hint at spiky emotional truths in their own playful way.

BALLY SAGOON
Rising from the East
(Higher Ground/Columbia 485016)

WHEN Bally Sagoo's Hindi single *Dil Cheez* rose to No 12 in the chart last month, there was much fevered talk (not for the first time) of an imminent breakthrough of Anglo-Asian music into the pop mainstream. But the disappointing first-week sales of Sagoo's album, *Rising from the East*, suggest that he is still only selling to a relatively narrow band of the converted.

Which is a shame, given that the album's exotic mixture of reggae, dub, hip hop and Asian cultural stylings will surely appeal to fans of more ostensibly successful acts such as Jah Wobble and Transglobal Underground, and indeed to anyone with an ear for the club music of the 1990s, which is routinely enriched by such influences from around the globe.

DAVE GRANEY 'N' THE CORAL SNAKES
The Soft'n'Sexy Sound
(This Way Up/Island 528 416)

A CROSS between Jarvis Cocker and Mike Flowers, Dave Graney is a paunchy, balding Australian with the exaggerated stage mannerisms and ostentatious jewellery of a duty-free love god. His songs are strange, existential narratives that invariably lead nowhere, but incorporate a wealth of humorously observed detail along the way.

His second British release this year, *The Soft'n'Sexy Sound* reveals more of the lot.

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 Blue is the Colour
- 2 Spice
- 3 Greatest Hits
- 4 A Different Beat
- 5 Falling Into You
- 6 Ocean Drive
- 7 Anthology 3
- 8 Evita
- 9 Recurring Dream - Best of
- 10 Spiders

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The Poole sisters — better known as Alisha's Attic — have produced a debut album that fairly drips with modish pop tunes

Back on the right track

BRANDFORD MARSALIS

TRIO

The Dark Keys

(Columbia 486668 2)

A WELCOME return to unalloyed jazz after his excursion into hip hop and rap, this is a typically robust, not to say frenetic, trio recording energised by Marsalis's extraordinary rapport with the tumultuous but consistently tight drummer, Jeff "Tain" Watts.

They are joined by another Marsalis regular, the unshowy, delicate bassist Reginald Veal, and on one track each by alto player Kenny Garrett and tenorman Joe Lovano.

Melodically somewhat sparse, and hovering at times on the edge of abstraction, Marsalis's compositions are open enough to allow all participants free rein, and the

absence of a chordal instrument grants Marsalis in particular a great deal of space, of which he takes full advantage with his apparently unlimited improvisational gift on both tenor and soprano horns. The overall effect might be somewhat relentless, but for sheer brio and spontaneous inventiveness, it's hard to beat.

ERNIE WATTS

The Long Road Home

(JVC 2059-2)

ALTHOUGH still probably best known away from the West Coast as the tenor player in bassist Charlie Haden's elegant Quartet West, Ernie Watts has recently begun establishing a considerable reputation for himself with a

series albums as a leader.

This is possibly his most polished effort to date, showcasing one earnest, heart-sleeve-one perfection by setting against a superb (but drummerless) rhythm section composed of sophisticated old hand-saxophonist Kenny Barron and bassist Reggie Workman.

Watts is an intensely expressive saxophonist, sound-embellished with just the right amount of affecting, wispy vibrato to imbue both his origins and the two Charles Mingus compositions featured here with an almost conventional intimacy.

He also provides sympathetic obbligato to the bluesy vocalies of Carmen Lundy on a couple of tracks; overall, this is a fine album from a relatively unsung player.

CHRIS PARKER

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LONDON JAZZ CONCERTS

Visionary joannas

THE name might not have meant much to British listeners before pianist Lynne Arriale embarked on her debut tour here. By the time she returns home to New York she will have added a lengthy list of admirers to her cause.

It took only a few minutes of her gig at the Bull's Head, SW13, to see why she has been championed by such acute judge of pianists, Marian McPartland. Arriale can unleash glittering single-note runs in the right hand, but she is much more interested in tonal colour and contrast, her long chordal sweeps creating her own dreamscape.

If she ran the risk of slipping into effete rhapsodising, her romantic impulses were kept in check by the forceful punctuations of her regular drummer, Steve Davis, very much an equal partner in this group. That ever-resourceful bassist Dave Green readily accepted the invitation to join in their dialogue.

Arriale's other great strength lies in her distinctive material. The combination of Monk's *Think Of One*, Chick Corea's *Windows* and Jobim's *Zingaro* made for an absorbing and unusually varied set.

Jobim cropped up again, this time in the over-familiar shape of *Wave*, in Dave McKenna's robust quartet session at Pizza Express, W1. It was a little depressing to hear such gifted musicians fall so readily into the bossa nova rut. Happily, the rest of the evening showed why the American veteran has been hailed as a master of full-blooded, two-handed swing piano.

The dynamic combination of Frank Tate and Butch Miles on bass and drums provided the high-octane fuel for *Motoring Along*. Even more satisfying, in its own quiet way, was a duet between Tate and guitarist Howard Alden on Ellington's *Single Petal of a Rose* and *Black Beauty*.

Mazzy Star



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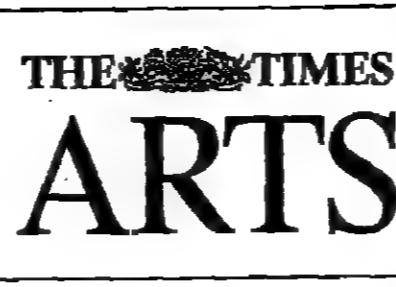
"Another predictably classic Mazzy Star album" (SUNDAY TIMES)



CHOICE 1
Elvis Costello joins John Harle for some innovative jazz on the South Bank
VENUE: Tomorrow at the Festival Hall



CHOICE 2
A new staging for Stephen Sondheim's classic musical *Sweeney Todd*
VENUE: From tonight at the Leicester Haymarket



THEATRE 1
Eleanor Bron stars as Terrence McNally's fine *A Perfect Ganesh* comes to the West Yorkshire Playhouse



THEATRE 2
Still dividing the critics: Tim Albery's drab but intelligent production of *Macbeth* arrives at the Barbican

LONDON
FROM MANTERMA TO PICASSO: An exhibition of one hundred drawings by some of the world's greatest artists opens tomorrow at the Royal Academy in London. Drawn from the private collection of Eugene and Clare Flair at the Royal Academy of London in New York, the exhibition includes important works by Rubens, Goya, Matisse, Rembrandt, Cézanne and Degas. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1 (0171-949 5615). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm. Until January 23.

THEATRE **WEEKEND CHOICE**
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VENUE: Tomorrow at the Festival Hall

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Mazzey

Edwards directs a reconceived production of *La Cenerentola*. Lycett, Wellington Street, WC2 (0171-652 1807). booking 10am. Preview begins tomorrow, 7.45pm. Open: Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; matinees Wed and Sat, 3pm.

ELSEWHERE **EDINBURGH** As part of the 34th Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Pochinon conducts the Ulster Orchestra in a programme of classic film scores to celebrate the magic of a hundred years of cinema. (0131-554 1000, 554 1001). Tonight, 8pm. The Royal Lyceum, Gladstone Street (0131-223 7404). Opens tonight, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; matinees Wed, 10am, 2pm. Wed (Nov 20, 27). 2pm, Sat, 3.30pm.

EDINBURGH Paul Kenny comes up with another Sondheim, directing Dave Willets in *Sweeney Todd*. Playful and poignant, one of Sondheim's best shows. Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh (0131-553 9272). Preview: 7.30pm, tomorrow and Monday, 7.30pm. Opens: Open 12, 7.30pm. Then Tues-Sat, 7.30pm; matinees Wed (Nov 20, 27), 2pm, Sat, 3.30pm.

EDINBURGH As part of the 34th Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Pochinon conducts the Ulster Orchestra in a programme of classic film scores to celebrate the magic of a hundred years of cinema. (0131-554 1000, 554 1001). Tonight, 8pm. The Royal Lyceum, Gladstone Street (0131-223 7404). London: Royal Opera House, tonight and tomorrow. On Sunday (Arts Theatre), Guy Masterson's *Unseen Images*. Milk Wood (opera) is a feast of multiple characterisation and surrealism. Festival Hall (01222 555277/655221). For tickets and information (0171-247 6666).

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EDINBURGH **WEEKEND** **THEATRE</b**

Law Report

1996 Court of Appeal

Assignment of remedy void on ground of public policy

Investors Compensation Scheme Ltd v West Bromwich Building Society
Same v Hopkin & Sons (a Partnership)
Alford and Others v West Bromwich Building Society
Armitage and Others v Same
 Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Lord Justice Mummery
 [Judgment November 1]

A remedy in respect of a cause of action was not capable of assignment in circumstances in which a mutually exclusive remedy was left with another party, such assignment being void on the ground of public policy in that it impeded the proper administration of justice.

On the true construction, on its ordinary and natural meaning, of one of two standard claim forms, issued by the Investment Compensation Scheme Ltd, the administering body under a statutory scheme to be used by investors claiming compensation from authorised persons unable to satisfy the investors claim of civil liability, as a result of the investment business, the investors assigned to the ICS all their claims against a third party building society, other than claims of any kind which included claims to reduce the sums which they would otherwise have to pay to the building society in respect of sums they borrowed from it, including interest on any such sums.

The Court of Appeal held in a reserved judgment when it allowed the appeal of the Alford and Armitage investors from the judgments of Mr Justice Evans-Lombe in the Chancery Division on October 3 (The Times October 10) in respect of two preliminary issues and on October 17 in respect of three preliminary issues, and dismissed the appeal of the ICS against his judgment of October 3. ICS was established under section 54 of the Financial Services Act 1986, pursuant to which there were brought into existence by the secretary of state, the Financial Services (Compensation of Investors Rules) (1990, Rule 2.02 related

to payment of compensation, and rule 2.10 to recoveries.

The claim form, section 3(b)-headed "ICS Declaration", provided:

"ICS agrees that the following claims shall not be treated as a third party claim for the purposes of this agreement and that the benefits of such claim shall accrue to you absolutely:

"Any claim (whether sounding in reversion for undue influence or otherwise) that you have or may have against the building society in which you claim an abatement of sums which you would otherwise have to repay to that society in respect of sums borrowed by you from that society in connection with the transaction and dealings giving rise to the claim (including interest on any such sums):"

In section 4, dealing with investors' agreement and acknowledgement (rights against participant firm), by paragraph 6, the investor assigned absolutely to ICS "each and every third party claim and the benefit thereof", and in paragraph 10 third party claim means "any right, claim or cause of action which the claimant has or may have against another person other than the participant firm or against any fund or property in the hands of any person other than the participant firm and arising out of the circumstances giving rise to the claim or otherwise relating to the claim."

Mr Justice Evans-Lombe had declared, on the preliminary issues:

I On the true construction of the claim form, claims for:

(i) damages or equitable compensation for undue influence, misrepresentation, breach of duty, and/or breach of assistance in breaches of fiduciary duty; and

(ii) an account of sums owing between the Alford and Armitage investors and West Bromwich Building Society after abatement or adjustment in respect of the said damages and/or compensation made by those investors [a] had not been validly assigned to ICS and [b] could be pursued by those investors.

2 That the claims advanced by ICS

had not been validly assigned.

3 Each investor was contractually obliged to account to ICS for the value of any recoveries whether by way of damages, equitable compensation, set-off, adjustment of the amounts due on the mortgage upon rescission, damages in lieu of rescission, or otherwise however, made by that investor against any party resulting from the investor having entered into a home income plan scheme and in particular against West Bromwich Building Society, up to the total of the following the ICS recoupment:

(a) the amount of compensation paid by ICS to the investor, and

(b) such amount in respect of interest on such compensation as the ICS considered just and

(c) costs incurred by ICS in effecting or attempting to effect recovery for the investor's claims arising from his entry into the scheme.

4 Each investor would hold any recoveries, whether by way of damages, equitable compensation, set-off, adjustment of the amounts due on the mortgage upon rescission, damages in lieu of rescission, or otherwise however, made in respect of the investor's claims on trust to pay the ICS recoupment to ICS.

5 If the answer to 3 or 4 above was "yes":

(a) the following was a term of the contract comprised in the claim form and obligations imposed on each of the investors by virtue of that trust that the investors would conduct the investors' claims in respect thereof reasonably and with due regard to ICS's interests;

(b) it was not a term of the contract, and/or an obligation imposed on each investor by the trust, that the investors were obliged to claim damages and/or equitable compensation in such proceedings and/or actions in preference to or in lieu of rescission of their mortgages and/or mortgage debt.

Mr Nicholas Strauss, QC and Mr Neil Kitchener for the Alford plaintiffs; Mr Nicholas Strauss, QC, and Mr Jonathan Middleburgh for the Armitage plaintiffs; Mr Geoffrey Vos, QC, QC

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MARC ASPLAND

O'Donnell thrown into turmoil of Jets' crash

The Christmas lights went up on Fifth Avenue yesterday, wound tightly round tree trunks, interwoven among branches, sparkling amid the home-bound headlights. It is a golden time here, in appearance and in outlook, a time when social commentators and sporting analysts are talking boldly about a "New York state of mind", a winners' approach.

Most of it has been engendered by the Yankees' surprise triumph in the baseball World Series last week, but for many of the other teams too, New York is a wonderful town again. The Rangers have Wayne Gretzky, the ice hockey icon, the Giants are looking as though they will make the National Football Conference play-offs after all and the Knicks could have their best basketball team for years.

There is just one catch, one team dragging the city down with its persistent mediocrity. The New York Jets, the laughing stock of the National Football League, have lost eight of their first nine games and are on target to equal the worst ratio of losses to wins in a season.

On street corners across Manhattan, stalls display T-shirts insinuating that Jets stands for Just End The Season. Last week a New York sports journalist was moved to write that the team's opponents had "done to the Jets what a baby does to a diaper", "Lost Cause", one of the back pages screamed.

One player sought an explanation for their fortunes by suggesting that they might be training on an Indian burial ground. "It's the Bermuda Triangle," another said. "It has moved 300 miles to the north and a couple of hundred miles to the west. I've never seen anything like it."

After one particularly devastating defeat, the coach, Rich Kotite, sent his players home to study video footage of the debacle. "It's like playing a bad movie over and over again," Lomie Young, a wide-



NEW YORK STORIES

ty, said. "The only thing is, we're forced to sit there and watch it."

Into this perennial chasm of darkness and despair, incredibly though it may seem, the Jets had already lured one of the most highly-rated quarterbacks in the sport. Stranger still, it was not any ordinary team that Neil O'Donnell forsook at the end of last season but the Pittsburgh Steelers, whom he had just led to the Super Bowl: it was not even as if the Jets had not warned him of what might lie ahead: they won only three of 16 games in 1995.

Most said it was the money, that O'Donnell had left Pittsburgh because the Jets were offering him \$25 million (about £15.5 million) over five years in excess of \$1 million a year more than the Steelers. All agreed that no Jets quarterback had arrived with such a weight of expectation on his shoulders since the flamboyant Joe Namath in the late 1960s.

He got a further taste of things to come in his first game, when he was sacked eight times. By the end of the fourth game that had more than doubled to a total that exceeded the number of times he had been dropped by opposing defences throughout the whole of his previous season with the Steelers.

His confidence suffered because of his lack of protection and, after gaining a reputation in Pittsburgh for accurate, safe passing, he threw interceptions in four successive matches. In the sixth game against Oakland Raiders, with the Jets' winless

run at a team record of ten games, he was hit hard just after he had released a pass. He dislocated a shoulder.

He has been out of the team ever since, condemned to a purgatory of watching practice from the sidelines at the team's training facility at Hofstra University on Long Island. He began throwing the ball again for the first time two days ago but, for the majority of the session yesterday, he stood in the midst of a small group of players watching the team run through its drills.

The soaring New England Patriots at Giants Stadium on Sunday but hopes to be involved the week after. The Jets have at least scored a solitary victory — over Arizona Cardinals — in his absence but the team's insecurities are still painfully evident in the mysterious idiosyncrasies of Kotite, who has taken to refusing to allow spectators to sit down when they watch the team training.

O'Donnell, a straightforward, home-loving man with a booming baritone voice who hails from New Jersey, where the Jets play their home

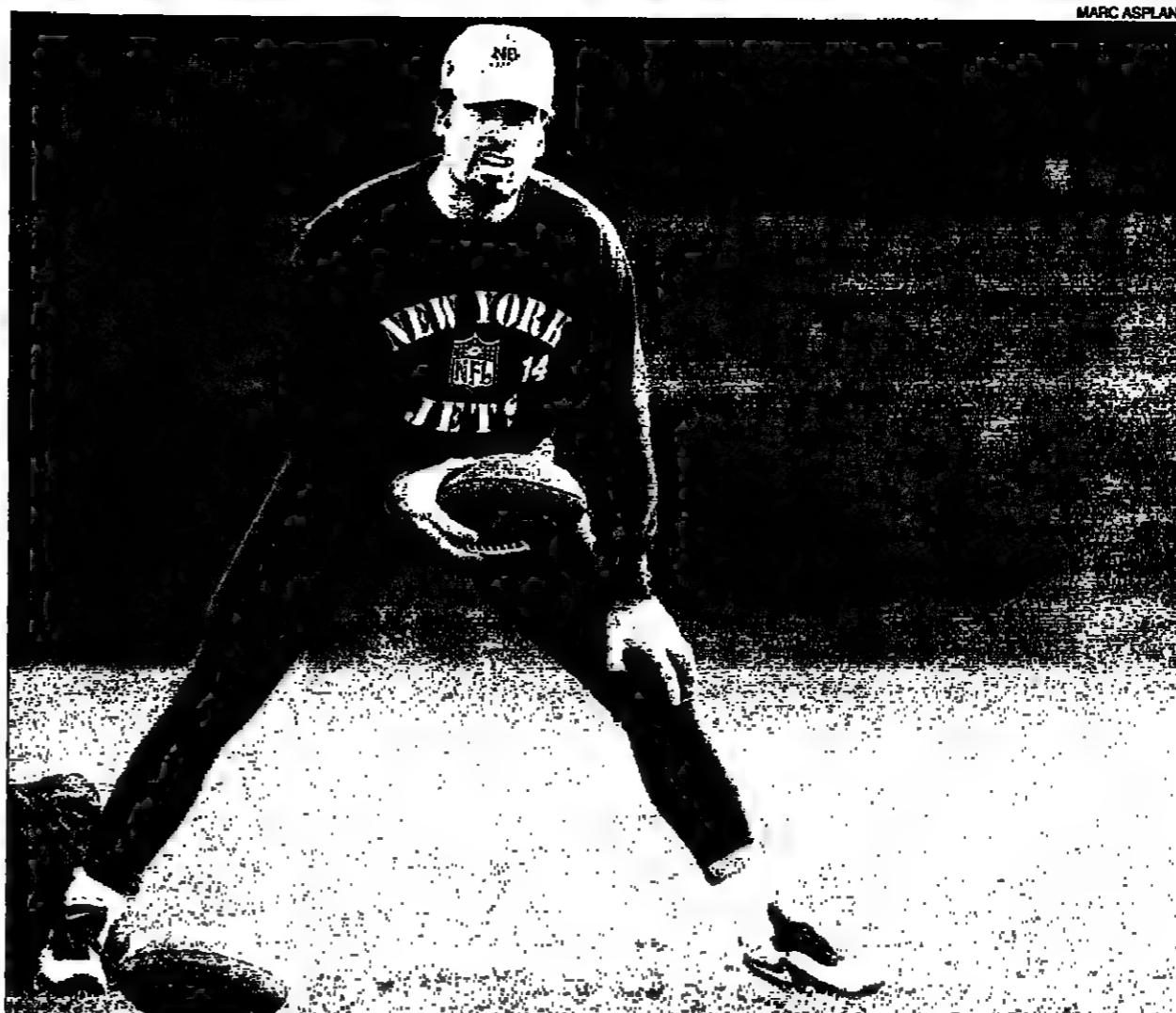
games, has rightly escaped most of the criticism for the team's parlous performances and remains uncowed.

"The people who said I came here for the money were the ones who didn't want to put much thought to it and wanted to write a story real quick," he said. "I never thought we would be 1-8 right now but I made a decision and I can't look back. I cannot second-guess myself."

"I have never been around losing like this and it has been very frustrating but, right now, I am just trying to get back on the field and make some things happen. It is worse because when I got injured I thought things were starting to come together."

"Now we just have to go out and try and win a few games so we can come back next year on a positive note. I don't think anyone outside of here gives us a chance. They are all saying it is the same old Jets but I am looking at it in the long run, not just one season. First of all, we have to stop the bleeding."

OLIVER HOLT



O'Donnell's first season with New York Jets has been plagued by injury and the despair of persistent defeat

'It's like playing a bad movie over again'

GOLF

Woosnam shares long-haul lead

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

IAN WOOSNAM returned a two-under-par 70 to share the second-round lead with Ernie Els in the eight-man Johnnie Walker Super Tour tournament that was launched in Taipei on Tuesday. The players flew to Seoul for the second round yesterday, with the third round following in Manila today and the final round in Bangkok on Sunday.

Woosnam made a shaky start on the 6,970-yard, par-72 Hanyang Country Club outside Seoul, with a bogey at the 2nd hole, but, under an overcast sky, he picked up three birdies on the back nine for a two-round total of 138. Els had two bogeys and three birdies for a one-under-par 71. Park Nam-shin, of South Korea, was in third place with 139, with Colin Montgomerie and Lin Keng Chi, of Taiwan, a further shot adrift.

Vijay Singh, of Fiji, was sixth with 143, while Chawali

Plaphol, of Thailand, and Felix Casas, of the Philippines, were some way off the pace with scores of 146 and 147 respectively.

Corinne Dibnah has a point to prove in the women's Australian Open, which got underway in Melbourne yesterday, and she made an encouraging start to her efforts to do just that. Disqualified from the tournament last year, Dibnah compiled a five-under-par 68 at Yarra Yarra to be tied for the lead with another Australian, Mardi Lunn.

Their scores were a shot off the course record and gave them a comfortable three-stroke lead over two Americans, Stephanie Martin-Cobb and Katherine Golden, Debbie Koyama, of Japan, Kathryn Marshall, of Scotland, and Susan Farren, of New Zealand.

Dibnah and Simone Williams, a young amateur player from Queensland, were disqualified in the event in 1995 for hitting each other's balls by mistake.

Karrie Webb, who is keen to add a big home victory to overseas wins that include the British Open last year and three successes on the US LPGA Tour this year, finished with a one-under-par 72 to be four off the pace. Now ranked No 4 in the world and a contender to be the leading money-winner in the United States this year, Webb said she was troubled by the slow greens and was unable to judge the pace properly.



Woosnam in front

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

European under-21 championship

Qualifying group two

Germany v England

(at the Avon Stadium, 9.30am)

Qualifying group seven

Holland v Wales

(at the Fuji Film Stadium, Brond)

Nationwide League

First division

Huddersfield v Bradford (7.45)

HELENC LEAGUE: Premier division

Corazon v Farnham

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Second qualifying round

Southend v Chesterfield

Second IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division

Shane's Protection v Glentoran (7.45)

FAI HARF LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE

Premier division: St Patrick's A.F.C. v

Farm (7.45), Shelscama v Dundalk (7.45)

A International match

Scotland v South Africa

Report and scores from the Nationwide League

Call 0839 555 512

Call 0891 500 123

Call 0891 100 123

FOOTBALL

Report and scores from the Nationwide League

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RUGBY UNION

Tuigamala to cap dual-code career on Samoa's wing

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

VA'AIGA TUIGAMALA, who has charted the waters of both codes in England since winning the last of his 19 rugby union caps for New Zealand, will make yet another landfall on Tuesday when he makes his first appearance for his native Western Samoa in a rugby union international.

Tuigamala, 27, will make a one-off appearance on the wing against Ireland at Lansdowne Road. He joins the touring party today, will watch the game against Munster in Cork tomorrow, and when the Samoans return to London on Wednesday, he will return to Wasps for whom he has played all season as part of the lease-lend agreement involving several other Wigan rugby league players.

He played regularly for the All Blacks between 1991 and 1993 before signing professional forms in January 1994. As a rugby league player, he appeared in the World Cup for Western Samoa last year and is now in the happy position of being able to help his country

in the other code. "We are not talking money here but sheer patriotism," Bryan Williams, the Samoa coach, said.

"This is a big plus for us. 'Luga' is an icon in the islands and we are happy to have him for his professionalism and his ability." Tuigamala will be joined in the squad by Junior Paramore, the flanker who went to Castleford and is now playing for Bedford, their presence confirming Williams's assessment of Samoa's needs after so many of his leading players took up offers from rugby league, from Japanese clubs or New Zealand provinces.

Even on what is a development tour, English clubs have been in touch with Samoa players. Steve Bates and Dean Ryan, from Newcastle, attended their match with Oxford University on Tuesday, and Par Lam, the Samoa captain, is only one of several players to have received offers.

"Several clubs from the UK have been in touch, but playing the British season is not a problem for us as an interna-

tional team," Williams said. However, Ireland's commitments, against the Samoans and then the A international against South Africa on Tuesday, have created problems for the first division league programme in England tomorrow.

Ireland started a five-day training camp in Limerick yesterday, and International Rugby Football Board requirements give preference to international duties. Accordingly, two more games — Harlequins versus Saracens and Bristol versus Leicester — have been postponed. London Irish versus Wasps and Newcastle versus Rotherham had already been called off.

The most important issue was the players' aspirations to play international rugby. Tony Hallen, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) secretary, said: "The RFU approves the postponement of league matches if those clubs who have provided players so wish." However, Northampton will go ahead, even though Northampton will be without Jonathan Bell and Allan Clarke (Ireland), Gregor Townsend (Scotland), and Nick Beal and Craig Moir, who are rated only 50-50 because of injuries.

Bath surrender David Hilton and Eric Peters to Scotland, but offer what will be an all-England three-quarter line of Adebayo, Guscoff, de Glinville and Sleightholme. Jonathan Callard's continued absence from full back will give Mike Catt a further opportunity to practise his goalkicking, a duty he must now perform for England.

Of Ireland's first-team squad of 21, only seven are not contracted to English clubs, and the drain across the Irish Sea goes on. Moseley, who have signed Darragh O'Mahony, the wing capped from University College Dublin last year, and Henry Hurley, the Old Wesley prop, have also added Alan Rolland, the Blackrock College scrum half, to their list of imports.



Tuigamala, one time All Black and Samoa rugby league international, is to add rugby union honours for his native country against Ireland

Anglo-Welsh Cup looks fatally flawed

GERALD DAVIES

capture the public imagination. Clubs do not field their full-strength sides.

The competition serves the clubs only in the sense that it allows them to give other members in their squads, and not the best XV, an opportunity of playing in the first team. Those returning from injury, as Neil Back of Leicester, did on Wednesday evening against Neath, can be rehabilitated into the first team once more. Furthermore, it represents a chance to judge the form of a new recruit as well as to prove whether a club's presumed strength in depth does actually exist. In this last sense, England's first division clubs are better equipped than the Welsh clubs.

Apart from the Llanelli versus Bath match that ended in a 10-10 draw and about which all those who are present still talk warmly, the fixtures have been eminently forgettable as testing contests. The match at Stradey Park that revived the tradition between the two clubs and the 'rag doll' they once played for, gave a sense of what an Anglo-Welsh

future might hold. But it is a prospect that can no longer be sustained.

The evidence suggests that the competition is not taken seriously. The concept has been undermined and the public short-changed.

To turn the clock back so that the cross-border contests could once more be enjoyed was devoutly to be wished. Both countries needed them.

The flaw in this in the new rugby world was that such exchanges did not involve the Scots and the Irish who also needed a fresh impetus. For the sake of the development of rugby generally in these lands this had to be taken into account.

Such concerns are answered by the Heineken Cup, which makes the Anglo-Welsh Cup look parochial. The success of the European competition is now assured and is likely to be extended. This will be the target towards which all clubs and provinces must aim.

If the response among the public has been lukewarm this side of the channel so far, the mood in France is vibrant. Our views on the European connection are awkwardly ambivalent. Only with reluctance is it embraced. Admittedly, the French do on occasion turn a blind eye to the strict definitions of the law.

It is quite likely that, ultimately, ITV, not the rugby authorities, will come to rule the day they walked away from the competition. Despite Heineken's hesitation when

the competition stuttered early on, they may find their loyalty to be amply rewarded.

If the Heineken Cup is going from strength to strength then the Anglo-Welsh Cup is redundant. Henceforward, the clubs will meet in a wider world. It is therefore more streamlined domestic league competitions that will underpin it.

So far, new ideas such as the Heineken Cup and the Anglo-Welsh Cup have been superimposed upon an existing structure. This is unsatisfactory. No one is sure from one week to the next which competition they are preparing to see. The season is a shapeless mass.

Rugby's authorities might be wise to start again with a clean sheet to determine the structure of the club and international season. Present at such meetings along with representatives from the unions and the clubs, should also be whoever wins the television contract.

Television cannot remain on the sidelines. Its interests are inextricable.

BBC win contract to cover Heineken Cup

BETTER late than never, English rugby union enthusiasts will receive a glimpse of the Heineken Cup on television from the quarter-finals onwards (David Hands writes). The BBC, whose regional programmers in Wales, Ulster and Scotland have already been showing Heineken Cup pool matches, have reached agreement with European Rugby Cup Ltd (ERC) to show the knockout stages, including live coverage of the final on January 25. After ITV withdrew from the tournament less than a fortnight before it began, ERC struggled to pick up the pieces.

However, the BBC's *Rugby Special* programme will be back on air and will on November 17, include highlights of the previous day's games between Cardiff v Bath, Leicester v Harlequins and Dax v Toulouse, plus coverage of that day's game between Brive and Llanelli.

England on course

BOWLS: England and Ireland have virtually guaranteed their places in the quarter-finals of the Manulife Regent International Hong Kong Pairs Classic in Kowloon. However, Scotland and Wales face uphill struggles in their last four matches if they are to reach the last eight. Andy Wills and Stuart Airey, of England, have lost only one match in seven while Jeremy Henry and Noel Graham, of Ireland, have won six of their first seven matches.

Pinsett's mystery tour

ROWING: Matthew Pinsett hopes to be in the Leander coxed four that competes in the Fuller's Fours Head tomorrow. Leander will start 353rd, having asked for a low position because Pinsett, together with Steve Redgrave, has a luncheon appointment with the Lord Mayor in the City. A motorcycle taxi will reunite him with his crew mates, including Dan Harrison, the son of George, the former Beale, at the Chiswick start.

Wellington foiled

RACKETS: Tim Cockroft and Toby Sawrey-Cookson failed in their attempt to become the first Wellington pair to win the Noel Bruce Cup doubles competition for public school old boys, which is sponsored by Peel Hunt. They could not reproduce the thrilling form of their +2 semi-final win over Marlborough and went down 4-1 to Willie Boone and Mark Hue-Williams of Eton. Steady rallies and fierce serving were the key to victory.

Bulls maintain charge

BASKETBALL: Chicago Bulls continued their unbeaten start to the National Basketball Association season with a 106-100 victory over Miami Heat on Wednesday. Michael Jordan scored 50 points and Dennis Rodman picked up 22 rebounds, the best total of the season. Jordan, who has scored 50 points against 18 teams, said: "I don't have to score 50 points every night for us to win but we didn't get the normal support from our bench."

Yewchuck ban cut

ICE HOCKEY: Marty Yewchuck, of Cardiff Devils, has had his record 21-match suspension reduced to nine matches by the sport's disciplinary body. Yewchuck was given a three-game ban after being ejected from a match at Nottingham Panthers last month for "excessive" roughing, a suspension that was later increased to nine and then, after an appeal, 21 matches. A £1,000 fine on Yewchuck was also cut to £60 yesterday.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

A few weeks ago when I was looking at leads against no-trump contracts I asked the question 'Should you be active or passive?' The same applies to suit contracts. You have to consider several points:

• Do you have your opponents stretched or do they have values to spare?

• Can you reasonably expect partner to contribute many defensive tricks?

• How do you think your cards lie in relation to those of declarer? If the opponents bid: 1 S—3 H—3 S—4 S, they have something to spare. This is the time to make an aggressive opening lead, perhaps the king from king doubleton for example. But say they bid: 1 S—2 H—2 S—3 S—4 S. Now they have a minimum opening bid facing a game invitation; they may well go down provided you do not give them a trick with your opening lead.

Consider the following hands after the sequence:

(i) A Q 10 8 4

♦ 8 4 3

♦ K J 5

♦ 6 4

(ii) ♦ J 6 5

♦ Q 5 3

♦ K J 3

♦ 4 2

Hand (i) you have excellent defensive prospects; good spades over declarer's first bid suit; short clubs under dummy's first suit. It seems unlikely that declarer will make his contract unless he can do a lot of ruffing. Lead a trump to cut down ruff, and a second trump when in with a spade. It is one of the few occasions when a trump looks best.

Hand (ii) is the complete opposite; bad spades over declarer; good clubs under dummy; lots of high-card points suggesting that partner will not be much help. The best chance is to lead a diamond. Maybe you can kick off with three tricks in the suit and later come to the queen of hearts.

Try another sequence, 1 S—2 H—3 C—4 S:

(iii) ♦ 8 7 2

♦ 7 6 3

♦ K 10 2

♦ 8 7 5

(iv) ♠ A 7 6 5

♦ 10 9 8 3

♦ 7 6 4

Hand (iii) looks poor as there are few defensive prospects in the black suits. Best to attack with an aggressive jack of diamonds. Hand (iv) doesn't look so bad — at least trumps are 4-1 and you may make a club and a heart to go with a trick in partner's hand. Should you try a diamond again? No, listen to the bidding. How many clubs does partner have? Probably no more than one. If that is the case you can more or less guarantee the defeat of the contract by leading a club. You will get in with the ace of spades and give partner a club ruff, and then get back in with the ace of hearts to give him another club ruff.

You will have a chance to consolidate what you have learned about opening leads next week — the daily articles will be on that subject.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HYGEIOLATRY

- a. Excessive hand-washing
- b. Rabies
- c. Health fanaticism

URTICANT

- a. Stinging
- b. Traveller's slang
- c. Urgent

CADUCEUS

- a. A deciduous tree
- b. A stick with snakes
- c. Roman Duke of the Saxon shore

BEDIZEN

- a. A Cambridge bedizener
- b. Two dozen times
- c. To decorate

Answers on page 46

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Coulsdon International

As part of the proliferation of international standard events following the 1993 clash between Garry Kasparov and Nigel Short, the Coulsdon International stands as one of the more interesting innovations. It was a tournament of category three, where international master results were possible. Formerly, such events were rare but the organisers, Chris Dunworth, has proved that any enterprising club or association can stage its own international standard event and achieve World Chess Federation recognition for its status.

King's Indian

David Bronstein, whose games we are celebrating this week, was one of the first to recognise the dynamic potential of the King's Indian Defence. Today's game shows the kind of blitzkrieg devastation he could unleash against unsuspecting opponents.

White Zia

Match, Prague v Moscow 1946 King's Indian Defence

1 c4 e5
2 Nf3 Nf6
3 Nc3 d5
4 d4 Nbd7
5 g3 g6
6 Bg2 Bg7
7 D0-0 0-0
8 b3 c6
9 Bb2 Re8
10 e4 exd4
11 Nxd4 Qb6
12 Qd2 Nc5

Diagram of final position



Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from International Grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01763 32176) at £6.99 plus postage and packing.

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Coulsdon International: Final Results

1 Taylor	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2 West Mill	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3 Wall	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
4 Crouch	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5 Gormally	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Latin lesson provides spur for meeting with scribes

It's beginning to annoy me that I have to miss *Football Focus* every week. And there is a sentence I never thought I'd write. But it's frustrating. Lifelong football supporters keep telling me "You've got to watch *Football Focus*, you know, it's a ritual" — but I'm always on a train somewhere on Saturday lunchtimes, and can't.

Last Saturday, heading for White Hart Lane (Spurs v West Ham), I made a cunning detour to the telly department of John Lewis on Oxford Street, so that at 12.30 I could watch it. But of course I could only whimper at the multiple soundless images of men, balls and greenward emanating from the telly, and paw feebly at the glass.

Football Focus is timed for armchair supporters, I suppose: those luckless (or do I mean lucky?) people who don't know the thrill of the burger van on Tottenham High Road on a November after-

noon; or of crowding on to a packed train at Seven Sisters against rough-looking adults curiously emblazoned with Latin.

Audere est facere it said on this block strap-hanging next to me, and I'd admit I gave him a pitying look, wondering why he was wearing a school blazer at the age of 40. But since it turned out to be the Spurs coat of arms, I'm glad in retrospect that I didn't strike up a conversation on the wrong lines. *Audere est facere* means, I suppose, To dare is to do — a bit like the SAS motto, only without the ruthless emphasis on winning.

Anyway, a London derby is the real thing, and the only problem was that this week I had to sit in the press box, which was odd. Having always pictured the press box as a smoke-filled lounge enclosed by picture-windows where men in trilby hats bark excitedly into phones, the environment on Saturday was a letdown.

When Tottenham's

Well-situated beside the players' tunnel, and with a good panoramic view of the pitch, it was otherwise the normal, cramped, draughty seating, but with little flip-down desktops, making it look a bit like a Sunday school in rural Africa. The tables serve a dual purpose, of course they help when you are writing notes, and they also inhibit sudden movements, such as jumping up for a goal.

But nobody does jump up in the press box, of course, so it's all right. Even polite applause is frowned on. An invisible force-field shields this little enclave from excitement, so that the job of reporting can be done without distraction. But Saturday's match was not, in any case, an affair to set reports alight.

West Ham made lots of brave and splendid charges and their "little fellas" Hugo Porfirio was hailed with justified cheers. But though the game surged back and forth with considerable energy, the teams simply cancelled each other out. When Tottenham's

try-again spirit on the pitch. Mid-fielders, wingers and playmakers keep delivering that ball to the front like Trojans, but if nothing useful is achieved with it, they just turn on the spot and run off again without sulking, which is odd.

I personally would sulk, wouldn't you? I personally would refuse to continue, until someone said "Sorry, mate, thanks for all that effort back there, can't apologise enough: Nothing upsets me more than fruitless labour, yet fruitless labour is 95 per cent of a footballer's existence, and they really don't seem to mind."

In fact, watching a nil-scoring football team at work, I have decided, is like witnessing the miracle of a robot learning to feed itself with soup. Effort and ingenuity propel the muscles of its arm (horrific), raise the elbow to the exact position (phew), swivel the forearm (amazing), and then tilt the wrist sharply (not) at the last minute so that the soup shoots over its left shoulder, and the whole process has to begin again.

I had a few daringly original

thoughts on Saturday. One was that Tottenham ought to get some new players, preferably with exotic names and hairbands. No respectable Premiership team can do without hairbands any more, and a few South Americans at White Hart Lane would really pep things up. I would gladly help pick some out. If a trip could be arranged.

"Obviously they need not go so mad in this respect as the Hammers," West Ham have clearly got over-excited buying foreign players, and their Euro-club facility should be withdrawn at once, for their own good.

The advantages of watching the match from the press box were few, I would say, and were easily outweighed by the loss of contact with the crowd. Some sandwiches were served in a nasty room at half-time by some jolly women; afterwards, in the same room, the West Ham manager, Harry Redknapp, appeared before us a

crushed and bewildered man, his eyes (like Alex Ferguson's whenever the camera dwells, cruelly, on him these days) all red and peculiar like those of a martyr when the flames begin to lick.

"If anyone can tell me how we lost that match," Redknapp began, hopelessly. And then he stopped.

Either he has a very staccato manner of speech, or he was genuinely speechless. Coaxed by questions, he said the usual banal things: that his team had played well, but you couldn't argue with the score, cheers ladies and all that.

Tottenham manager, Gerty Francis, was scheduled to appear about an hour later, but I thought about waiting and concluded I had been delighted long enough. I suddenly remembered I could be at home reading *Pride and Prejudice*, so I made an executive decision to bunk off early. *Audere est facere*, that's me.

FOOTBALL

Liverpool reach breaking point with Collymore

BY RICHARD HOBSON

THE future of Stan Collymore with Liverpool seems more uncertain than at any time in his eventful 16 months with the club. Out of the first team starting line-up, he was disciplined yesterday after refusing to play for the reserves on Wednesday night. There is increasing speculation that he will be allowed to leave Anfield, most intriguingly in a return to Nottingham Forest.

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, wanted Collymore to play against Tranmere Rovers' reserves, but was forced to name a replacement less than an hour before kickoff when Collymore failed to appear at Prenton Park.

Evans said initially that Collymore had rung in sick on Wednesday afternoon, but later admitted that he had expected the striker to play. The episode is likely to cost Collymore a week's wages — about £12,000.

It appears that Evans has come to the end of his tether with the player that he signed for a then British record fee of £8.5 million from Forest in July last year. Collymore has refused to move from his home in Cramond, in the West Midlands, missed training

sessions and, having failed to get up front with Robbie Fowler, has lost his place to the Czech Republic international, Patrik Berger.

He upset his manager with in five months of his arrival when he was quoted as saying that Evans had not discussed his role in the side during transfer negotiations. He felt that Liverpool were not playing to his strengths by taking too long to move the ball forward, rather overlooking the fact that the Anfield medod had hardly been unsuccessful over the previous 25 years.

In a magazine article, Collymore was reported as

Evans: angered

Busst told leg injury has ended his career

DAVID BUSST, the Coventry City defender, has been told that his career is over less than a month after throwing away his crutches and beginning the swimming stage of his rehabilitation after suffering one of the most horrific injuries witnessed in football.

Playing against Manchester United at Old Trafford on Easter Monday, his right shin bone snapped as his leg twisted underneath him when he converged on a loose ball, with Peter Schmeichel, Denis Irwin and Brian McClair less than two minutes into the game. The moment was captured by photographers in all of its detail but Busst has never seen the picture.

"The incident is still clear in my head," he said. "I knew straight away that something was very wrong but when I looked down I could not see my leg because it was bent double beneath me."

Busst underwent 14 operations, including a number of skin grafts, and required pins and braces to hold the leg together. Until he visited a specialist this week, when he heard that the leg would never stand the rigours of competitive football again, he believed that his recovery was going to schedule.

Gordon Strachan, who succeeded Ron Atkinson as the Coventry manager three days ago, paid tribute to Busst, who came late into the professional game when he was signed from Moor Green, of the Southern League, in January 1992 and proceeded to make 50 League appearances.

"He was not the world's greatest footballer but he had one of the biggest hearts in the game," Strachan said. "He was one of the top people to coach when I wanted to become a better player. That is why this has come as a real blow."

Busst has dismissed any suggestion of a return by Collymore as "pure speculation", but, although unable to move in the transfer market at present, he will have around £10 million at his disposal should a proposed takeover of the club be completed next month. He may get Collymore for just over half of that.

Alternatively, Aston Villa, the club Collymore supported as a child, would be in a position to act if the protracted sale of Savo Milosevic to Perugia, in Italy, finally goes through.

It is also worth remembering that Alex Ferguson has signed Andy Cole in January last year.

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GRAHAM ROBERTS takes Yeovil Town back to play Enfield, his former club, at Southbury Road tomorrow as leaders of the ICS League with Enfield, four points behind in third place and having played a match more, snapping eagerly at their heels.

Roberts said: "Last season, we went there eight points behind and had to win. This time they have got to beat us, so the pressure is more on them. The one thing we won't do is underestimate them."

The encounter last season was a tumultuous affair. Yeovil levelling at 1-1 late in the match only for Enfield to score a winner after an ocean

of injury time. Enfield went on to complete the double with a 1-0 win at Huish Park on the last day of the season, but still lost out on the title to Hayes, who clinched it on goal difference.

"They're a good club," Roberts said. "The manager [George Borg] was my assistant when I was there and has done very well. There will be a big crowd and I am sure both sides will go out to attack."

Yeovil's start to last season was hampered by injuries and Roberts was forced to rely on youngsters. "It was not ideal: young players can be kicked to bits in this league," he said. He has reinforced his squad

this season with more experienced recruits, including Rob Cousins and Jerry Gill, the former Bath City players, Lee Harvey, from Slough Town, and Tony Pounder and Chris Moore, released by Hereford and West Ham United respectively.

Roberts, the player, remains in the thick of things at the age of 37. "I'll stop the moment I don't enjoy it," he said. "I keep myself pretty fit and I think that when players see what I'm prepared to put in, they respond. When we lost at Dulwich, I didn't have a good game and dropped myself for the next one and I think they responded to that too."

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الإذاعة الأولى

RACING: WAKEHAM ENLISTS LADBROKES' CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO NEWLY-FORMED GROUP

Bookmaker given advisory role

By JULIAN MUSCAT

A LEADING representative of the bookmaking industry was yesterday given one of four places on the newly-formed Horseracing Advisory Group (HAG), which is to communicate informally with the Home Secretary on issues of concern to both sides.

Peter George, chief executive of Ladbrokes, has accepted an invitation from Lord Wakeham, chairman of the British Horseracing Board (BHB), to join the group. With bookmakers not represented on the BHB, George's appointment marks the first time racing has enlisted bookmaking interests within one of its front-line organisations.

George's nomination — alongside Lord Hartington, Sir Paul Fox and Sir Thomas Pilkington — emphasises the BHB's determination to forge closer and more meaningful links with the betting industry. Government has frequently criticised the two entities for

failing to work together. Although both industries have been financially hit by the National Lottery, neither can expect further long-term concessions from government without addressing their own relationship.

"Racing and betting are interlinked in respect of funding," Tristram Ricketts, chief executive of the BHB, said yesterday. "Lord Wakeham took the view that his group would be considerably less effective without bookmaker input. Peter George's membership is very important. He has a deep knowledge of the betting industry and a broader interest outside it."

George, aside from the other three HAG members, are, or were, members of the BHB. This is bound to rankle with owners and trainers critical of the BHB — particularly its failure to address the lack of prize-money in British racing. But Ricketts mounted a robust defence of the group. "It is important to recognise that

these appointments are personal," he said.

"This is John Wakeham's initiative with the Home Secretary, who accepted the proposals. It is the way he felt the group would operate most effectively in its formative stages." Ricketts added that the four men were all first choices of Wakeham, who

Pilkington, the club's senior steward, could be interpreted as a top on an organisation, some of whose members still begrudge the BHB's advent.

Let it not be forgotten, too, that George's employer, Ladbrokes, is an influential member of the Betting Office Licensees' Association, which is in conflict with the BHB over the distribution of any tax concession announced in the Budget later this month. The association has pledged that, should the Chancellor reduce betting tax by 1.25 per cent, it will pass on a 1.5 per cent deduction to punters.

This pledge, if granted by government, will leave no scope for racing's coffers to benefit directly through the levy, as happened when betting tax was reduced in March. It also portrays bookmakers as a source of self-help. Yet the initiative will hardly cost them; they already over-recover funds from punters' deductions.

As for Lord Hartington, his therefore has precisely the personnel he envisaged.

Although the group has a wealth of experience, Wakeham's preferred candidates leave something to be desired. The formation of the BHB essentially restricted the Jockeys' Club's role in racing to one of licensing and discipline. The inclusion of Sir Thomas

reputation within government circles is secure. His vision underpinned the BHB's creation but he has since moved on from establishing the BHB to become deputy chairman of Sotheby's Holdings Inc. The "great racing debate" has also moved on. Many British owners are cutting back or getting out. Rather than dwelling on the past, fresh talent must be found to replace Hartington.

The group's composition will do little to bridge the unhealthy chasm developing between racing's administrators and its professionals. One man whose presence would have greatly benefited the group is John Gosden, the Newmarket trainer.

He was recently appointed to the board of the Racehorse Owners' Association — effectively as the Makhtoum's representative. Gosden would have been more than capable of accentuating racing's problems which lie beneath the gloss of wholesale Makhtoum participation in British racing.



Wakeham believes that bookmaker input will be beneficial to his advisory group

MIKE POWELL

TIMES

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TOP 100

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THUNDERER	
1.00 Valegalore	2.90 Highland Girl
1.30 Naniskin	3.00 EXPRESS GIRL (nap)
2.00 Prussian Blue	3.30 Kaiser Kache
	4.00 Eastern Prospects

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.00 DAAWE.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.00 Poldart. 3.00 Royal Blackbird.

3.30 BOLD DEMAND (nap).

GONG: SOFT
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING DRAW: SF-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

1.00 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND DRAINSFIELD NOVELTY COMPANY
MADNESS STAKES (2-Y-O, 6f, 54, 53; 7) (20) (runners)

1	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	

CRICKET: DEPOSED CAPTAIN ASKS TO LEAVE WHILE LAW, SALISBURY AND SPEIGHT CONSIDER MOVES

Sussex in crisis as Wells joins exodus

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

SUSSEX cricket, blessed with a history of colourful characters and a time-warp atmosphere that is at once maddening yet engaging, has always commanded affection way beyond the county boundaries. Such loyalties may soon be stretched beyond endurance, for the club is approaching turmoil, its team on the point of breaking up.

Stoical county officials remain publicly implacable, but they must recognise that there are fires blazing around them. The abrupt dismissal, last week, of Alan Wells as captain was evidently designed to placate disaffected players, but, so far, it appears to have had no such effect.

Danny Law, arguably the most gifted young all-rounder in the country, is preparing to join Essex despite the pleas of Chris Waller, the Sussex coach, who has flown to Australia to see him. Ian Salisbury, the only English leg spinner worthy of the description, is heading for Surrey and

Martin Speight, whose rare batting ability is decaying at Hove, has only been stalled in a return to Durham, where he went to university, by the belated offer of a new contract.

Now Wells, a genuine Sussex man scorned, has sought permission to terminate his contract and take offers from elsewhere. He will not go short. "I have written to the club asking for their consent," he said. "It would come as a wrench to leave and it is something I had never imagined doing. But it might be for the best. I've got five years' cricket left in me and things would be difficult all round if I stayed."

Wells plainly feels compromised, having received a personal assurance of backing from Desmond Haynes, the cricket manager. Something happened to make Dannie change his mind, Wells said. "I don't know what. I'm still waiting to hear from him." Wells refuses to believe that it was his leadership which was driving other players away, and the ongoing tensions seem to vindicate him.

Sussex are not overendowed



Wells (left) and Salisbury: looking to quit troubled Hove

with talent. They have won nothing for ten years and, last season, finished twelfth in the championship. Now, having already jettisoned Ed Giddins, they risk losing almost half a team — the accomplished half — before next season begins.

Small wonder that in a rare concession to the gravity of the situation, Nigel Bett, the secretary, said: "There is some concern among the members."

Bett is no fool, certainly

when it comes to the art of



Wells (left) and Salisbury: looking to quit troubled Hove

dismissing a crisis. "If I believed all the things I had read and heard about our team, I would be opening the batting and bowling and keeping wicket next summer," he said. "There is so much speculation and it is very unhelpful."

"Of course, there is concern, and that stretched to our committee. It isn't easy. We have got our problems. But as things stand the situation is simply that there are a number of players with whom

we are still negotiating. These do not include Giddins, sacked as soon as his suspension for drug-taking was confirmed in August. Giddins is back at Lord's today, hoping to have his punishment reduced on appeal to the Cricket Council, but he has already pronounced on the latest upheaval at his former club. "Sussex are always looking for a scapegoat," he said. "They did it when they sacked Norman Gifford as coach last year and now they have done it with Alan Wells."

Giddins's memory is short, but his point is well-made. Sussex have always placed great store by muddling through with the right sort of people. They have traditionally been more fearful of scandal and revolution than of failure, and the club committee has a long-standing reputation for bronching personal relations.

They have had few greater players than Maurice Tate, few better servants than Ken Suttle. Both played for more than 20 years, but both were left resentful. It is said that Tate received a curt letter in

Take it stage by stage

is All the World a Stage? Radio 4, 9.30pm.

This Kaleidoscope feature is not what the title led me to expect. I look to it mean: is this stage a microcosm of all human life? What Paul Allen explores are the advantages some structures, or in-the-round offer compared with others (proscenium arched). Theatre space is how Allen describes it. Sir Peter Hall believes theatre architects should be inspired by "plastic and human" considerations rather than geometric ideals. Allen himself thinks nostalgia for past tradition can lead to dead theatre. The director Stephen Daldry puts in a plea for more actors' theatres, fewer directors' theatres. Predictably, Mark Rylands, in charge of the reconstructed Globe, reports favourably on the actor-audience links it forges.

Composer of the Week. Radio 3, Noon.

Thanks to Penelope Thwaites's five Composer of the Week editions, we now know there is very much more to Percy Grainger than *Country Gardens, Handel in the Strand, And Over the Hills and Far Away*, and my own vocal favourite, *Shallow Brown*. His output was considerable — 40 works composed, arranged, set or edited. Qualitatively, we hear too little of it. Grainger's *Music Review* is not surprised by it. Snow was often in conflict with the Sussex hierarchy, especially over his attempts to make the players' lot a less subservient one. He recalls once being told by a committee member: "I hope the game doesn't change in my lifetime."

That attitude prevails today,

which is one reason why Hove

is such a doltily enduring place to visit. It is also a reason why Sussex are being cast adrift in the choppier, competitive seas of modern cricket. Their players feel unwanted and, with Haynes seeing out his batting career in South Africa and Peter Moores newly and unenviably promoted to the captaincy, there appears to be nobody capable of persuading them otherwise.

PETER DAVALL

England embark on exercise to build tour bond

FROM SIMON WILDE IN VALE DO LOBO

CYNICS might suggest this is the kind of overseas trip that England cricket teams should always undertake, one that involves playing no cricket at all. England are here for eight days and during that time there will be no matches, no nets and no talk about the game that keeps them all in a living. For a team beaten in seven of its past eight Test series away from home, this may come as welcome relief, but the purpose of the mission is far from one of escapism.

England are in the Algarve primarily to confront their levels of fitness and improve them, before leaving on their 14-week tour of Zimbabwe and New Zealand in a fortnight. To this aim they have brought with them Dean Riddle, a fitness instructor with Leeds

rugby league club, who is ruthlessly putting the players through their paces.

Riddle first met them several weeks ago at Headingley, where he gave them a number of tests. Yesterday morning they went through them again and, although the results were not made available, it was apparent that Nick Knight and Alec Stewart led the field.

The management declared itself satisfied with the performances of all the players but then it is scarcely likely to say anything else on a trip that is also designed to help to "bond" the party.

A lot of this bonding has been performed on the golf course at Barrington's, where they are staying, which is so devoted to the game that it is scarcely possible to go any-

where without catching sight of fairway, driving range or putting green, day or floodlit night. The whole idea, though, is that the England players should arrive in Zimbabwe "keen to pick up bat and ball".

Less immediately David Lloyd, the England coach, is anxious that Riddle's programme should be adopted by all 18 counties next year, so that it is possible for England to know what levels of fitness players under consideration for international selection have reached. Lloyd has even put in a request to the county physiotherapists, but whether it is met remains to be seen. It hardly seems an unreasonable demand and would provide a valuable means of comparison.

Michael Atherton, the England captain, is in relaxed mood, clearly having benefited from his first long lay-off from cricket for a year. He has personally appreciated the training schedule, aware that his own form has often flagged towards the end of recent Test series. Equally, he knows that shuttle runs and the like are ultimately of limited use. They may help to improve stamina but it is still better to hit boundaries than to run sharp singles, as Sri Lanka conclusively demonstrated in beating Australia in the World Cup final in March.

The long-term aim of the England winter tour is, of course, to create a team capable of regaining the Ashes next summer and Atherton observed Australia's recent troubles in India, where they failed to win a match, with interest.

"It just shows what a difference Shane Warne makes to their bowling attack," he said yesterday. "With him injured, they really struggled. They lost a Test and in the one-day matches no one was capable of bowling ten overs for 30 runs, as he would have done."

The upshot is that they have got off to a bad start under Geoff Marsh, their new coach, and, as Keith Fletcher found with England, hard to stop that happens it can be hard to stop the momentum."

With England potentially stronger in batting than at any time in recent years, Australia may be starting to wonder how on earth they will bowl them out twice. There, no one has written that for a long time.

England A faced the toughest task of their tour so far when they took on South Australia in a four-day match starting early today. Their preparations were interrupted by injuries to Jason Gadiani (hand), Dean Headley (back) and Ashley Giles (also hand), although Giles and Headley were expected to be passed fit.



Gatting, the coach, offers advice to Anthony McGrath yesterday as England A prepared for their four-day match against South Australia at the Adelaide Oval

Clarence Park put out to grass

BY PAT GIBSON

SLOWLY but inexorably, the grounds which have contributed so much to the character and diversity of county cricket are falling by the wayside.

During the summer, Yorkshire dispensed with Bradford, Harrogate, Sheffield and Middlesbrough and yesterday it was the turn of Clarence Park, Weston-super-Mare, to be buried under the weight of terms such as "rising running costs" and "exposure to financial risks".

Clarence Park was unique in that cricket was played there only once a year during Somerset's festival week. The rest of the time it was a public park, the cricket square fenced off to protect it from small boys, dogs and players on the two hockey pitches alongside it. The little green

and white pavilion was the only permanent structure.

Everything else — temporary stands, tents, seating, boundary boards and accommodation for the scores and press — had to be set up amid the pines and oaks not far from the sea. The cosmopolitan crowd of West Country cricket lovers and holiday-makers gave it an atmosphere all of its own.

Sadly for English cricket, there have not been enough of them in recent years to make it all worthwhile. "The future of the festival has been debated each year for quite some time," Somerset said, in a statement "regretfully" announcing that there will be no festival next year. "Unfortunately the position was never reached whereby the festival

could be guaranteed to pay for itself. This was unsatisfactory from a membership, marketing and sponsorship point of view."

"Despite a joint effort by the club and North Somerset District Council, a level of income could not be established for 1997 sufficient to offset the considerable expense."

So ends a tradition which began in 1914 when Yorkshire won by 140 runs after Almonz Drake, who also played football for Sheffield United, had taken all ten Somerset wickets for 35. The sense below the surface was often reckoned to help the bowlers, but the short boundaries also appealed to batsmen such as Ian Botham, who hit ten sixes in an innings of 134 in 1985.

RADIO 4

8.35am Shipping Forecast (LW)

8.45am Feedback (LW)

9.00am News 9.05 Desert Island

Dishes (Chris Petter) (LW)

9.45 Feudback, Chris Durney

10.00 News (The Afternoon Shift)

10.30 News, You and Yours

12.25pm The Food Programme

1.00pm The World at One

1.40 The Archers (LW)

2.00 News, Classic Serial:

Women in Love, by

D.H. Lawrence (24) (LW)

3.00 News, The Afternoon Shift

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope,

Tim Marlow sees Peter

Gatting's new film *The**Paint Box*

4.45 Short Story: On the Death

of Ken Saro-Wiwa, by Ken

Saro-Wiwa

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping 5.55

Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 Going Places

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.30 News, Coronation Street: Lady

Sir Clive Thompson, group

chief executive, Rentokil

Group plc; Professor Fred

Halliday, professor of

international relations at the

London School of Economics; Jonathan Portelli, writer and broadcaster tackle the issue

8.30 News In Action, with Marcel

Berins, including a special

report on the future of law

centres

8.15 News from America, by

Alice Cook

8.30 Kaleidoscope Feature: Is

All the World a Stage? See

Choice (LW) 9.05 Weather

10.00 The World Tonight, with

Robin Lustig

10.45 News at Bedtime

11.00 The Music Machine

11.30 The Sun

12.00 News, You and Yours

12.25pm The Food Programme;

Weather

1.00 News from America, by

Alice Cook

1.30 Kaleidoscope Feature: Is

All the World a Stage? See

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11.00 The Music Machine

11.30 The Sun

12.00 News, You and Yours

12.25pm The Food Programme;

Weather

1.00 News from America, by

Alice Cook

A near thing, but it was fabulous after all

So tell me darlings, why all the secrecy? When the BBC gets all reluctant with the review tapes, it normally means one of two things. First, that the programme is a real dog (ever wondered why you never see reviews of *Food and Drink*?); or, secondly, that it has a shock horror ending that we critics cannot be trusted to keep from the front of the paper.

Imagine my surprise then, after being smuggled into Television Centre at dawn and sworn to 24 hours of secrecy, when *Absolutely Fabulous* (BBC1) turned out to be — or have — neither. True, part one on Wednesday night had been a disappointment, but I'd put that down to an early case of Christmas specialitis. You know, when all the characters do all sorts of things they wouldn't normally do and then sit around wondering why it's not funny any more. You don't? Well, you will in six weeks' time.

As for the shock horror ending, Edina ruining Safy's big day hardly fits into that category. What was different about part two, however, was that it was funny, very funny. Not quite vintage *Abfab*, but not far off. Eddie and Patsy can stagger off to television history with our blessings, although given the inconclusive nature of the ending I don't think anyone should be surprised if they stagger back, yet again, one day.

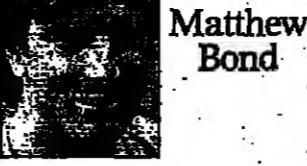
Perhaps the secrecy was to protect the glittering array of guest stars that had been assembled for this last hurrah. Or perhaps it was to spare us the disappointment that Lulu was not among them. Marcella Detroit giving the congregation *Oh Happy Day* was one thing, but a Lulu shout (impossible to capture in print) would have been quite another.

Who played God must have been a difficult decision, but in the end it was Marianne Faithfull who

shared Eddie's near-death experience ("what did you talk about?" "shopping, mainly") while Christian Lacroix (the man himself, according to the credits) made the wedding dress. Unwittingly he also provided one of the best jokes of the night, when Eddie waved a gaudy gold crucifix at the vicar. "Lacroix, darling."

With Safy (the wonderfully sincere Julia Sawalha) distracted by her male chauvinist intended and Mother (the wonderfully unpredictable June Whitfield) by visiting "snowbirds" (itinerant elderly Americans, whose lifestyles, jokes and T-shirts appeared to have been borrowed from a recent documentary), the best support came from Kathy Burke as the foul-mouthed Magda and Mo Gaffney as happy-clappy Bo.

Not that Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley needed much sup-



Matthew Bond

port. I particularly liked the insights we were given into Patsy's hitherto closely guarded private life. Having her live above the Fulham Road branch of Oddbins (where else?) was inspired, but having her drink in Finch's was — for anyone who knows that fine establishment — fabulous. And I mean that absolutely.

Oliver Sacks would like Finch's — it's the sort of pub that a media-

friendly neurologist could turn into a television series in no time at all. In the meantime, however, he is making do very nicely with *The Mind Traveller* (BBC2), which two weeks into its run looks like it will become an essential part of Thursday night.

Last night he confessed he was as interested in the person as he was in the disorder they suffered from or, as he put it, "as drawn to the who" as I am to the what." That pretty much describes how I react to the series, as drawn to Sacks and his gentle way with scientific observation as I am to the conditions he describes.

That said, last night's was a Lulu. Tourette's syndrome is a complex chemical disorder of the brain that causes sufferers to make sudden impulsive movements and noises. Despite the fact that a pharmaceutical "cure" is available, Sacks, a Toronto-based artist, took nothing, "preferring the

full force of his condition, with all its disadvantages, to the damped-down state induced by drugs". After 50 enlightening, entertaining (for all his problems Sacks proved a very personable fellow) and exhausting minutes, you did rather wonder how bad Tourette could be.

If Dr Sacks' presence would not doubt be much appreciated at the Queen Vic in *EastEnders*, where David has clearly moved into the terminal stages of Wick's syndrome (a complex chemical disorder of the brain that causes sufferers to rush the nearest available sofa-bed) and is it... well, bark... "He's got a lot on his mind at the moment" said Lorraine, as her son rocked and fro in front of the television. Satan, Lucifer, Beezebub, Grant Mitchell... the usual sort of thing.

No need, however, for neurologists or psychiatrists at Sun Hill, at least not while Inspector Monroe (Colin Tarrant) and *The Bill* (ITV) are around. Monroe, you see, has his own way with the mentally unwell — he shouts at them. "Put down that knife," he bellowed at Alice Merchant, a woman capable of keeping an entire police station in work. "Sit down," he commanded, as she confessed to everything bar hitting a male nurse over the head with a heavy-duty steering lock.

The Monroe approach, however, turned out to be the right one. For having invited us to believe that Alice's mental illness was caused by her brutish husband, it gradually became clear (insofar as anything happens gradually in *The Bill*) that she had crossed the divide and become truly mad, bad and deadly to know. NB. It was produced by my mother... hit alarming really.

BBC1
6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (8514)
7.00 BBC BREAKFAST NEWS (8514)
7.00 BBC BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (Ceefax) (8472427)
9.20 STYLE CHALLENGE (s) (1672394)
9.45 KILROY (s) (6131408)
10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK (s) (88330)
11.00 NEWS (Ceefax), regional news and weather (2017021)
11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW (4535408)
11.45 SMILIE'S PEOPLE (s) (6332382)
12.00 NEWS (Ceefax), regional news and weather (2027821)
12.05 ALIAS SMITH AND JONES (2958368)
12.55 THE WEATHER SHOW (51242514)
1.00 NEWS (Ceefax) and weather (13972)
1.30 REGIONAL NEWS AND WEATHER (14537750)
1.40 NEIGHBOURS (Ceefax) (2448750)
2.00 CALL MY BLUFF (Word World) (s) (8175)
2.30 PETER SEABROOK'S GARDENING WEEK (s) (836)
3.00 INCOGNITO (s) (7682)
2.30 THE ANIMALS OF FARTHING WOOD (f) (Ceefax) (s) (565330)
3.25 DARE MR BARNER (s) (3685137)
4.10 THE REAL ADVENTURES OF JONAH QUEST (Ceefax) (s) (7512786)
4.25 GRANGE HILL (f) (Ceefax) (s) (118355)
5.00 NEWFOUND (Ceefax) (s) (6532025)
5.10 BLUE PETER (Ceefax) (s) (2782025)
5.35 NEIGHBOURS (f) (Ceefax) (5234040)
6.00 NEWS (Ceefax) AND WEATHER (505)
6.30 REGIONAL NEWS MAGAZINES (175)
7.00 MUPPETS TONIGHT! The guest is Jason Alexander, from the cast of the American comedy series *Saints*. (Ceefax) (s) (238353)
7.25 TOP OF THE POPS (Ceefax) (s) (830458)
8.00 THIS IS YOUR LIFE Michael Aspel lays an ambush for another unsuspecting worthy (Ceefax) (s) (8311)
8.30 KEEPING UP APPEARANCES Hyacinth decides that she and Richard need a new car (f) (Ceefax) (s) (7446)
9.00 NEWS (Ceefax), regional news and weather (8156)
9.30 DANGERFIELD An old friend of Dangerfield's father lands in trouble with the police when his dog bites a local boy. In an attempt to find the best way to help the man Dangerfield consults bereavement counsellor, Liz Moss for advice (Ceefax) (s) (142255)
10.20 FILM: The Outlaw Josey Wales (1976) starring and directed by Clint Eastwood. A western drama about a farmer who turns vigilante when Union soldiers kill his wife and child and destroy his property (2776517). **WALES:** Sedalia City 10.50 FILM: The Outlaw Josey Wales 1.00am-2.30 FILM: Dr Giggles (1992) starring Larry Drake. A horror movie about a deranged heart surgeon. Directed by Manny Coto (1227731)
12.35pm FILM: Dr Giggles (1992) starring Larry Drake. A horror movie about a deranged heart surgeon. Directed by Manny Coto (1227731)
2.00 WEATHER (736602)

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BBC2
6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: THE NORTH SEA: MANAGING THE COMMON POOL (218601) 6.25 THE BLACK TRIANGLE (270408) 6.50 RAISING ARMS AGAINST AIR POLLUTION (9431578) 7.15 ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (4231243) 7.55 SMART (773137) 8.25 THE GREEDYSAURUS (GANG) (1826535) 8.25 SPIDER (5072120) 8.30 THE RECORD (5489711) 9.15 THE ECONOMICS COLLECTION (707505) 9.45 WATCH (6322412) 10.00 PLAYDAYS (71408) 10.30 WHO'S WHERE? WHEN? WHY? (6002788) 10.45 BEVESTA (2009059) 11.00 LOOK AND READ (2626392) 11.20 SHORT CIRCUIT (726156) 11.40 ENGLISH TIME (678224) 12.30pm WORKING LUNCH (83345) 1.00 SCENE: ALISON (11514) 1.30 TECHNOLOGY STARTERS (1459672) 1.45 WORDS AND PICTURES (1455427) 2.00 THE GREEDYSAURUS GANG (4685704) 2.05 SPIDER (4685631)
2.10 SHOW ON FRIDAY (562243)
3.55 NEWS and weather (5011427)
4.00 TODAY'S THE DAY (s) (208) 4.30 HEADY, STEADY, COOK (s) (972) 5.00 ESTHER (s) (708) 5.30 GOING, GOING, GONE (s) (224)
6.00 SLIDERS (s) (422352)
6.40 ELECTRIC CIRCUUS (s) (565392)
6.55 ROCKY STAR (b/w) (303308)
7.00 HERAG THE HERRING GULL (f) (Ceefax) (251595)
7.45 ONE MAN AND HIS DOG The Young Handians' trophy from Combermere in Shropshire (Ceefax) (s) (276388)
8.30 THE ENGLISH COUNTRY GARDEN Poly Farm in Berkham is the fine example of the Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll partnership (Ceefax) (s) (5088)



Belinda Carlisle guest (8pm)

9.00 SHOOTING STARS Celebrity quiz show (s) (Ceefax) (7075137)
9.30 ALL RISE FOR JULIAN CLARY (Actress) Nelly Hughes is in the dock for being too nice and *The Sun* newspaper is subjected to a ruthless once-over (Ceefax) (s) (26359)
10.00 HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU Joining the regulars this week are Vince Hancock and Tony Hawks (s) (79553)
10.30 NEWSNIGHT (Ceefax) (604068)
11.15 THE A FORCE The best of black entertainment (s) (5263001)
1.20-2.50 FILM: Samba Trance (1992) With Bakary Sango. After participating in a robbery, Samba Trance hides out in his village, but it is a matter of time before the truth is uncovered. Directed by Kinsa. Quedraogo. In the African language Bambana with English subtitles (s) (5948460)

9.00pm Belinda Carlisle guest (8pm)
Frasier Channel 4, 10.00pm
No apologies for yet again featuring the jewel in Channel 4's comedy crown as Frasier just keeps on getting better and better. The sophisticated standard of comedy is so high to begin with, it is nigh on impossible to imagine how the scriptwriters can top each effort. This week, Seattle's favourite radio agony uncle is required to confront his own demons. In other words, a case of psychiatrist, shrink thyself. He takes possession of an antique chess set and, in his glowing self-congratulation, challenges his blue-collar dad to a friendly game. Unfortunately for Frasier's ego, Martin turns out to be a natural and Frasier is driven to the point of manic obsession in his attempts to beat him. Camp, clever, brilliantly written and played by everybody (including the dog). Frances L

Stayin' Alive (TV, 9.00pm)

Staying awake probably would be a better title for it. The second part of this drama about five student nurses would have been better suited as an episode of an Australian soap. Certainly not enough to sustain the interest over so long a period. A bit of judicious cutting would have made a half-way decent programme. The characters are straight out of central casting — the raunchy one, the virginial one, the token male, the battered wife and the psycho. The storyline follows the personal lives of these five as they try to cope with living in a cockroach-infested nurses' hostel and the rigours of nursing on the bottom of the NHS pecking order. In this episode, Mick is getting over the suicide attempt but she is obviously still one very sick young lady.

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CH4
Faith in the Future (TV, 8.30pm)
If British sitcoms are your choice of chode then this second series of the spin-off from *Second Thoughts* is for you. The excellent Lynda Bellingham reprises her role as the newly divorced Faith, whose attempts to make the most of her sexual freedom are continually being sabotaged by her drecked daughter, Hannah (Julie Sawalha). The way both women tackle the thorny problems of their sex lives and their own relationship is the hook on which the sticky written jokes are hung. Fast pacing in both punchlines and action make for a well-made sitcom with a better-than-average humour quotient in the first episode. Faith's return from the first night of session with fellow healer Pauline (Julie Hesmondhalgh) and her son, Ben (Samuel Troughton), that thrilled with the lack of Richter-scale earth movements. Meanwhile, Hannah is still trying to rid herself of the loveable Jools, played by Simon Pegg.

Shooting Stars BBC2, 9.00pm

Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer are a canny pair. They know how to make great popular culture by mercilessly sending it up and yet still retaining a deep affection for it. Their sense of humour is an acquired taste being in three parts surreal to one part slapstick, but it is enough to have gathered them a devoted following. Their regular comic captains on this piece of daftness are living stones, DJ Mark Lamarr and Ulrika Jonsson. Equally, the comic gurus are not restricted to doing much other than contributing to the general repartee and answering questions that have to be basic in reality whatsoever. Falling into the regular category, the guests tonight are singer Belinda Carlisle (solo), Reg Presley of the Troggs and crop circles expert (a bit past character) Tim Brooke-Taylor (with Dennis and Dennis Perrett) (young and spry).

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AMERICAN FOOTBALL 41

Why playing for
New York Jets is
no laughing matter

SPORT

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8 1996

CRICKET 46

Sussex in turmoil
as Wells seeks
to join exodus



SFA demands answers of Johansson

Scotland face replay of Estonia farce

By KEVIN McCARRA

ESTONIA faced grave charges in Zurich yesterday, but it was Scotland who were punished as Fifa, football's world governing body, investigated the aborted World Cup qualifying match between the nations in Tallinn on October 9.

The game did not take place after the Estonian side failed to turn up. The kick-off, to their dissatisfaction, had been brought forward by four hours when Fifa stated, on the morning of the game, that temporary floodlighting at the Kadriorg Stadium was inadequate.

The World Cup organising committee decided yesterday that the tie is to be replayed. It had initially been expected that Scotland would simply be awarded a 3-0 victory, a verdict stipulated in Fifa regulations when one team does not appear. There were even suggestions that Estonia might be expelled from the tournament.

In the event, it was Scotland who suffered. They have been informed that Gary McAllister, their captain, is to be

suspended for the World Cup tie with Sweden at Ibrox on Sunday, a ban that was supposed to have been served against Estonia, but it is now being applied to the next fixture instead.

It can be argued that, in the extraordinary circumstances, it would be fairer to link the suspension to the restaged match with Estonia, which must be played by March 16.

Kicking and Screaming - 44
Collymore on carpet - 44
Buss blow - 44

1997. While the Scottish Football Association (SFA) publicly evinced a law-abiding acceptance of Fifa's verdict, there is, in private, a great deal of discontent.

Its focus is Lennart Johansson, who chaired the organising committee meeting in Zurich. He is a Swede. The SFA will seek to discover whether he participated in discussions on a topic of great concern to his own nation.

Fifa were persuaded that the late alteration of the kick-off time created an extenuating circumstance. "We stated clearly our reasons for not arriving for the rearranged game, saying we were concerned about security and that our players were 80 kilometres away from the ground," explained Alain Lepainen, general secretary of the Estonian Football Association, who considered yesterday's decision "a fair judgment."

Ferry is sceptical of the Estonian claims. "Within ten minutes of hearing that the kick-off had been changed," he said, "we had organised six or seven buses to get people to the stadium from various points of the compass. It seems that the Estonian FA couldn't find a single bus to carry their team. We could have loaned them one of ours. We had the will to comply with Fifa's ruling."

The Estonians could face some form of sanction at a meeting of Fifa's disciplinary committee on November 23, but the ruling body seems tacitly to have accepted that its own belated alteration to the kick-off time must take much of the blame for producing the fiasco.

Restaging the fixture will create problems. Ferry pointed out that Fifa has recently listed permanent floodlight installations among the criteria for stadiums used in World Cup stages. Wintry weather, too, may make a return to Tallinn impossible and the Estonians have already suggested that the game might go ahead in Finland or even Cyprus.

Fifa will meet Scotland's considerable expenses. These would presumably include even such items as the £500 of appearance money paid to each player selected for the match. Ferry calculates that taking around 100 people, including players, officials and journalists, to Estonia last month cost £70,000.



Hoddle remains tight-lipped about his team selection for England's match against Georgia as he faces the press yesterday

Wright fits the bill for Hoddle

FROM ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN TBILISI

THE England team, preparing for the hundredth World Cup game in their country's history, are seeing the other side of life. In Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, which is emerging from civil war, they experienced periodic power cuts and an inability to receive phone calls from home.

They are lucky. If they took in what they were looking at through the windows of their bus to training yesterday, they will have gleamed that this is a city with 200,000 street children and only one orphanage accommodating 100. Yet the stadium where they went through their routines yesterday represents resurrection. After 15 years of neglect and dereliction, the Lokomotivi club is being purchased and put back into service by Georgi Kinkladze, the Georgia international. It is a bare and forlorn mountain city: it is costing one quarter of each monthly pay packet of the £20,000 per month Kinkladze earns from Manchester City.

For at least three of the English players, the World Cup qualifying match, at the Boris Palchadze stadium, on Saturday might also represent a major window in their lives. Andy Hinchliffe, the Everton defender, is gradually convincing Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, that, at 28, he provides the right balance of industry, reliability and a left foot that England, under Terry Venables, lacked.

Ian Wright, the Arsenal striker, continues to excite Hoddle with his fire, his touch and his enthusiasm and is closer than ever to reclaiming an England shirt at 33. And Matthew Le Tissier, of Southampton, begins to look, in England company, like the player of flair and confidence that Hoddle, unlike Venables, has

Andy's grown and, since he's got into the England side, his club form has been excellent.

Hinchliffe can scarcely believe the transformation in his life. A Manchester schoolboy with ten O levels, he lost his place and his way after transferring from Manchester City to Everton. His problem was that Howard Kendall, the manager who sold him, followed him to Goodison Park.

Hoddle will not name a side until shortly before kick-off, yet the signals that were sent out at the Lokomotivi stadium are cruel indeed if they do not bode well for this trio.

"The boy is on fire, he's as good as anything in the Premiership," Hoddle intones on a daily basis about Wright. "I would have liked to have seen him when he was 23-24. He's as sharp as a razor, he's good to have around, he's kept his body extremely fit, and he has great awareness of where to run off the ball, plus a killer instinct." Of Hinchliffe, Hoddle insisted: "He's given us a nice balance. I think

that he has to try to win Hoddle over. "You would expect that!" Hoddle responded.

"Terry was his club manager [at Tottenham Hotspur]. Let's face it, it was taken out of his [Sheringham's] hands and mine when Teddy was injured before the first game."

And the prospects of Le Tissier, the player discarded without real opportunity under Venables' regime?

"A lot of eyebrows were raised when I brought him in," Hoddle said. "I like to think one of the reasons why he [Le Tissier] has turned his form around at Southampton is the big boost to his confidence now that England want him. He has wonderful skill, he has his form back [sic goals in six games] and the area where he's going to hurt opposing sides is in and around the penalty area." Words, but not promises.

International football these days concerns the inner game of coaches trying to lay false trails for one another. Alexander Chivadze, one of the finest players in world football, has emerged from Dynamo Tbilisi to pull the strings of his country's highly technical, though perhaps not potent, new generation.

Hoddle and Chivadze performed with finesse but both know that pragmatism is a prerequisite to survival. On Wednesday, Italy lost 2-1 to Bosnia; it looks like arriverde Arrigo Sacchi, the Italy coach and the highest paid in world football. "It's intriguing, isn't it?" Hoddle observed. "It shows there really isn't an easy game anywhere."



Wright in good form

Phil the Fag ruled out of character

John Goodbody says cartoons will push home the FA's healthy living message

The Football Association has picked a new team to fight drug-taking, smoking and excessive drinking among talented young players. The team sheet includes Phil the Fag, Paul the Pill-popper, Chris the Can and Joe the Joint.

Elite boy footballers, aged between nine and 12, are being asked whether they would include these cartoon characters in their team or instead pick other comic figures such as Tony the Trier, Dave the Dribbler and Harry the Header. Youngsters are asked: "If you were the coach who would you choose for your team? Why? Who wouldn't you choose? Why not? Name and draw four other players you would like to have, or not have, on your team."

The FA has also addressed youngsters aged 13-16, with an anti-drugs leaflet stating: "Skin Up [roll a joint] and You're Off". It warns: "We don't want to make you paranoid [honestly] but it can be a nasty and brutal world out

there and drugs are right at the centre of operations."

All 147 centres of excellence in the country have received the new booklets as part of the FA's £1 million campaign against excessive drinking and taking of drugs, particularly cocaine and cannabis.

More than 10,000 talented youngsters are being given the leaflets and being shown an anti-drugs video. They are also attending talks from their club doctors or from Alan

Hodson, who oversees the FA's programme, originally launched in April 1995. The FA became concerned that players, particularly the younger ones, could indulge in excessive drinking or become targeted by pushers even before the scandals of the last two years.

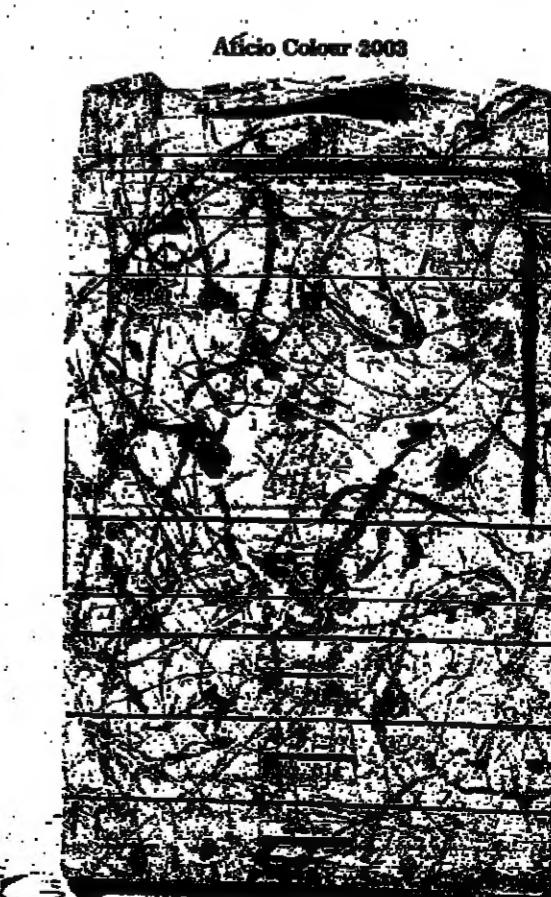
In 1994-95, there were 12 positive tests in English football, of which eight were for marijuana and one for an amphetamine. Last season the

figure dropped to seven, five of which were for marijuana and one for cocaine (Roger Stanislaus, of Leyton Orient).

There have also been the highly-publicised cases involving two Arsenal and England players. Paul Merson, the striker, has admitted taking cocaine and being an alcoholic, and Tony Adams has admitted that the strain of the break-up of his marriage had caused him to become an alcoholic.

Hodson said: "We believe these pamphlets will get the right response from youngsters. The message for young footballers is that there are social problems that we do not want in this game. Through our programme we are also advocating sensible, moderate drinking, a good diet and healthy living."

"Usually, coaches and parents have the most influence on young footballers and we have been getting their full backing for our initiative. The FA is unique in world football in having such a programme such as this."



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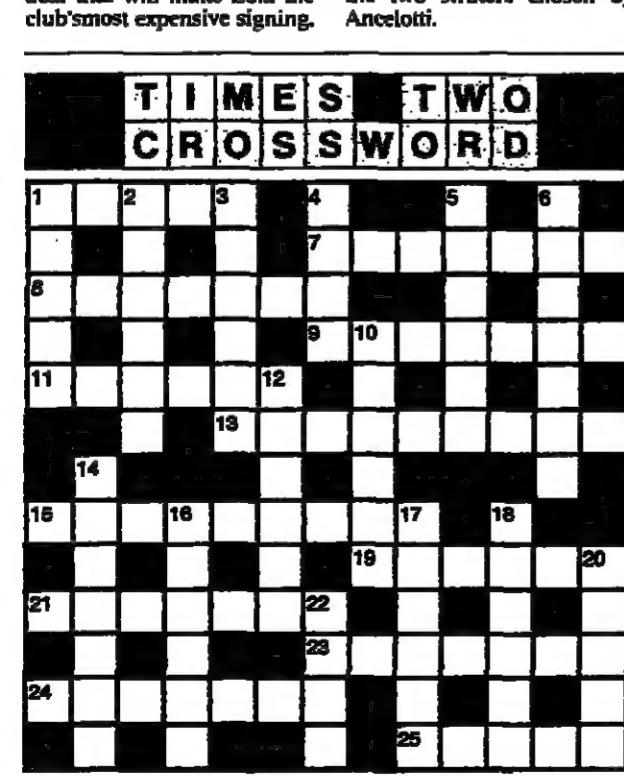
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No 934

ACROSS
1 Son of Isaac: a sheep (5)
7 Partially coincide (7)
8 Give tyre new tread (7)
9 Requiring effort (7)
11 Centre/circumference line (6)
13 Tax on legal document (5-4)
15 Informal collection (4-5)
19 Large, inelegant helping (6)
21 Outer clothing (arch.) (7)
23 Vital part (7)
24 Athletics spear (7)
25 Christened (5)

DOWN
1 Trial panelist (5)
2 Light-hearted play (6)
3 The solution to 933 will be published Wednesday, November 13

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